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# EVEN MORE HOUSING



Both high- and low-rise apartment complexes are being planned for the waterfront beneath the Brooklyn Heights promenade, an area where both the city and state had promised to build a park to avoid such a development. Pictured above is the Brooklyn Bridge Park planners' model showing 30-story high-rise that would be built off Atlantic Avenue at Pier 6 and eight-story residence behind it. The buildings surround 360 Furman St., which the Watchtower Society sold for condo development.

## Planners park low-rise homes below promenade

By Jess Wisloski  
The Brooklyn Papers

Those who attended the first public meeting on the redesigned plan for the Brooklyn Bridge Park commercial, recreational and housing development got a surprise Tuesday night when an architect displayed a series of townhouses along Furman Street below the Brooklyn Heights promenade, which he said planners envision adding to the project.

Matt Urbanski, a member of the design team led by landscape architect Michael Van Valkenburgh, placed the series of three-dimensional pink rectangles along the eastern perimeter of a model of the 1.3-mile waterfront site.

The new homes sat between taller white models of four residential buildings, including two skyscrapers, at each end of the project. The recent addition of those four buildings has created a storm of debate among longtime park advocates who historically opposed the placement of housing along the waterfront.

### NOT JUST PARK WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT

Audience members who came to the meeting, jointly hosted Feb. 22 by Community Boards 2 and 6 at Polytechnic University in Metrotech, elicited "oohs" and "ahhs" mixed with grumbling and head shaking.

When Urbanski explained that the housing would serve to block sound from the noisy, cantilevered Brooklyn-Queens Expressway beneath the promenade and above Furman Street, a woman in the audience interrupted, shouting, "So you'll deflect all the noise back into the Heights instead."

Urbanski said engineers specializing in noise abatement would study the effects of the houses on both sides of the park.

Many of the roughly 300 people who came to the lightly publicized meeting were keenly interested in the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation's

addition of housing as the primary revenue generator. Of particular concern has been the plan to build a 30-story skyscraper near Pier 6 at Atlantic Avenue.

Not including the row-houses proposed for Furman Street, which runs between Old Fulton Street and Atlantic Avenue under the BQE, the new plan calls for the construction of 730 market-rate co-op or condominium units to pay off the annual park costs with their common fees.

[The Brooklyn Papers reported last week that recent financial estimates showed the park would likely need to build more housing within 35 years to keep up with rising operating costs.]

When Urbanski finished placing the low-rise mock-ups along the park's perimeter, he explained, "These [low-rise] buildings are a direct response to the feedback we got from the public," but cautioned, "It's in the middle of being explored right now."

Urbanski touted the Furman Street development as a positive way to increase the value of the middle section of the park, and create a safer street atmosphere for foot traffic without hindering views from Brooklyn Heights and the promenade, which are protected under landmark regulations.

"It would make basically Furman Mews, like Furman Street's nice cousin," he said of the new road that would be created on the park side of the new buildings. He also noted that the difficulties of building next to the cantilevered highway were many, starting with no access to light from the BQE-facing sides of the buildings.

Asked during a brief question-and-answer period at the end of the meeting how many stories might be shaved from the 30-story tower if development on Furman commenced, Wendy Leventer, president of the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corp. (BBPDC), a subsidiary of the Empire State Development Corp. charged with designing and operating the park, said she wasn't sure.

But in a press briefing that morning, BBPDC consultant Tom Montvel-Cohen told reporters that Pier 6 was likely to remain built up, regardless of additional housing along Furman Street.

"First of all, it's all very nice to draw boxes on a plan, but if there's no market

See **MORE HOUSING** on page 15

## Public gets first look at new plan

By Jess Wisloski  
The Brooklyn Papers

The presentation of the latest design for Brooklyn Bridge Park, the proposed waterfront commercial, recreational and housing project, were received with mixed enthusiasm during an open meeting at Polytechnic University Tuesday night.

But more prevalent than scornful hisses or tentative applause from the audience — comprised of a smattering of residents from Park Slope, Cobble Hill, Fulton Ferry, Brooklyn Heights, DUMBO and other outlying areas — was the ongoing refrain that representatives of the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation (BBPDC) received for excluding the general public from meetings to discuss the plans, which have been held privately since the redesign was unveiled on Dec. 18.

Elected officials who turned out for the

meeting included Borough President Marty Markowitz, Councilmen David Yassky and Bill DeBlasio, state Sen. Martin Connor, Assemblywoman Joan Millman and a representative for Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez.

The meeting, hosted by community boards 2 and 6, was, as CB6 Chairman Jerry Arner explained, "a chance for our community to learn about the plans firsthand — not just read about them — but get them directly from the designers and the development corporation."

"A county of Kings deserves an emerald jewel like the Brooklyn Bridge Park in her crown," said Markowitz of the 1.3-mile development plan.

But Millman, who lives in Brooklyn Heights, was more critical of the plan and the process by which it was rolled out.

"This is the first meeting we've had in too long a period of time," said the Brown-See **FIRST PARK LOOK** on page 5



From left, at Tuesday's meeting: Matthew Urbanski, of Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates Inc.; Wendy Leventer, president of the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation; and lead Brooklyn Bridge Park designer Michael Van Valkenburgh.



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## Slope kids bash American soldier

By Jotham Sederstrom  
The Brooklyn Papers

A class of Park Slope sixth-graders shocked the nation this week when it was discovered they had sent demoralizing letters to a soldier stationed near North Korea as part of a social studies assignment.

Several of the letters sent to Pfc. Rob Jacobs by students from JHS 51, the William Alexander Middle School, on Fifth Avenue at Fifth Street, attacked soldiers for participating in the war in Iraq.

According to the New York Post, which first reported the story on Monday, one girl wrote that she believes Jacobs is "being forced to kill innocent people" and challenged him to name an Iraqi terrorist, concluding, "I know I can't."

Deputy Schools Chancellor Carmen Farina, the former superintendent of Park Slope's School District 15, who has a nephew serving in Iraq, said on Tuesday that she would personally issue an apology to the New Jersey soldier and his family.

The teacher who assigned the letter-writing project, Alex Kun-

hardt, was reprimanded by JHS 51 Principal Xavier Castelli. Kunhardt issued a statement of apology through the Department of Education.

"The teacher acknowledges that he made a mistake and the principal plans to add a letter of reprimand to his file," said Alicia Massey Greene, a spokeswoman for the Department of Education.

Although Jacobs was not stationed in Iraq, it didn't stop the pint-size punks from dishing off 21 mostly unhappy letters that seemed to confirm every stereotype of the liberal Park Slope mindset and its widespread opposition to President Bush. While one wrote, simply, that she believed "this war is pointless," others weren't so easy on the 20-year-old soldier.

In one essay, a student wrote that soldiers were "destroying holy places like mosques" while another accused Jacobs of "being forced to kill innocent people."

Elected officials, meanwhile, issued carefully worded statements. See **LETTERS** on page 6



ASPCA Special Agent Richard Ryan escorts Carmello Salamone, 51, from the 66th Precinct, at 16th Avenue and 58th Street, to Central Booking on Tuesday. Salamone, founder and president of the Hearts and Homes animal shelter, was charged with 11 counts of animal cruelty.

## ASPCA arrests 'Hearts' founder

By Jess Wisloski  
The Brooklyn Papers

The founding director of a Brooklyn animal shelter was arrested Tuesday and charged with 11 counts of animal cruelty following an investigation by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Carmello "Mel" Salamone, 51, of Mastic, Long Island, was picked up by 66th Precinct police on Fifth Avenue at 25th Street in Sunset Park, one block south of where he turned over the carcass of a dead pit bull to animal rescuers on Jan. 31 following a raid on the facility he helped organize.

Salamone is charged with "overriding, torturing and injuring animals and failure to provide proper sustenance for animals," according to the district attorney's office. He could face up to 11 years in prison — one year for each count — an ASPCA investigator said.

Reached for comment after the arrest, Salamone asked The Brooklyn Papers to call him. See **ASPCA ARRESTS HEAD** on page 6

### Newsboxes removed

The Brooklyn Papers has ordered the temporary removal of its on-the-street newsboxes in Carroll Gardens, Cobble Hill and Red Hook. While we believe much of the recent legislation regulating newsbox placement is unconstitutional, we are nevertheless making a good-faith effort to comply with those rules. Pending the return of our boxes in a few weeks, we have increased deliveries to stores that carry our newspapers and our net circulation is unchanged. If you need help in locating a store that carries The Papers, please call Cynthia at (718) 834-9350, ext. 101, between 8:30 am and 5:30 pm weekdays.

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# Headlights on hit heights

By Jess Wisloski

Car thieves made off with the headlights of two cars parked on or near Henry Street in Brooklyn Heights during the same 24-hour period last week.

In the first incident, the victim told police she parked her gold 2001 Infiniti SUV on Henry Street, between Orange and Pineapple streets on Feb. 12 at 6 p.m.

The victim, 21, told police that when she returned the next day, her headlights, valued at \$2,292, were gone.

Then, on Willow Street between Pineapple and Clark streets, the Xenon headlights were yanked from a Nissan Maxima sometime between Feb. 12 at 11 p.m. and when the victim returned, the next day at 1 p.m.

A gang of young women approached another teenager in the subway on Feb. 17, and robbed her by stripping her of her sneakers and jewelry on a northbound C train at 3 p.m.

The victim, 17, told police she was assaulted as the train headed toward the Jay Street station.

While two of the attackers held her down a third pulled off her sneakers and jewelry on a northbound C train at 3 p.m.

The victim told police that the female assailants knocked her eyeglasses off her face, and she said she is legally blind without them.

Stolen were her gold earrings, a gold chain and her sneakers, police said.

**Fulton muggers**

Three menugers in a car worth \$2,000 and a watch in front of the Burger King on Fulton Mall on Feb. 17 at 6 p.m., the victim told police.

The victim, 34, said the thugs stopped him as he walked across the intersection of DeKalb Avenue and Fulton Street. Two of the men held up his arms, while a third went through the contents of a fanny pack that was on his hip.

The first man took the money and timepiece from the

## POLICE BLOTTER

bag before all three fled on foot.

### Honda taken

Car thieves made off with a brown 1992 Honda Accord parked on the corner of Prospect and Adams streets on Feb. 16.

The Columbia Heights victim, 31, told police his wife had left the car parked at 5 p.m., but upon her return at 10:30 p.m. the vehicle was missing.

Police said the car had been towed away by the city.

### Pipe to head

A man struck another man over the head with a black metal pipe on the corner of Bond and Livingston streets on Feb. 19.

The attacker and his victim had been arguing prior to the attack, which occurred at 2:50 a.m.

When the attacker, 18, blew his top, he whacked the other man, 19, on the head. Police arrested a suspect, 18, and recovered the pipe he allegedly used to strike the victim.

### Sip 'n' snatch

A patron lost in the lure of her latte at a Starbucks on Court and Joralemon streets had her purse snatched on Feb. 17 between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m., say police.

The victim, 23, told police she set down her black purse on the floor, next to her right foot, but when she reached down for it half an hour later, it was gone.

By the time she contacted her credit card companies, \$666 had been charged already.

Among the other items stolen with the woman's bag were a \$120 memory card for a digital camera, a camera worth \$70, \$25 in cash, a cellular phone, a digital music player, a MetroCard and her foreign student ID.

**Heavy sleeper**

Burglars broke into a DUMBO apartment worth \$50 as the tenant slept on Feb. 16 between 12:30 a.m. and 3 p.m.

The front door of the apartment, on Plymouth Street between Adams and Pearl streets, had been forced open,

and the victim also noticed a hole broken into the wall.

Yet the victim, 30, told police he must have slept through the entire incident.

### Lunch and loss

A woman was robbed of her wallet while having lunch at a Court Street restaurant on Feb. 16 between 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.

The victim, 25, was robbed of her Coach handbag, a military ID, NY license, credit cards, and other ID, as well as her cellular phone, keys and \$20.

The owners of the eatery at Joralemon Street gave detectives a video surveillance tape to aid the investigation.

### Small payoff

Two aggressive muggers pushed their way into a Red Hook vegetable storage facility, where they kept cash and a cash register.

For all their efforts, however, the thieves only made off with \$15 in the Feb. 15 caper.

The business, on Beard Street between Columbia and Osego streets, was robbed at

9:45 p.m. when the two male robbers coaxed two workers into unlocking the front gates under the pretense of renting space in the facility.

After they were let in, the men pushed their way into the unlocked inner office and ordered the employees to get on the ground.

"Open the case door and get on the floor!" shouted one man, who forced one of the workers on the ground.

The other found the cash register in the rear office, which they removed entirely, unable to open it on the premises.

**Gardens burgle**

Burglars made fast work of a Carroll Gardens woman's home when they made off with \$2,600 worth of property on Feb. 18, after she left her apartment for only 35 minutes.

Police say the 28-year-old victim's apartment, on Clinton Street between Third Place and Fourth Place, was left unattended only between 6:30 p.m. and 7:05 p.m.

Upon arriving home, she told police she found the front door unlocked and the rear window slightly opened with the screen up.

Reported stolen was a lap-

top computer, two digital cameras and a camera charger.

### Van Brunt sack

A burglar ransacked a Red Hook apartment in the night, making off with a digital camera, laptop, DVD player, cell phone and \$300 in cash sometime between Feb. 18 at 9:40 p.m. and 6:45 a.m. the next day.

The victim's apartment, on Van Brunt Street at the corner of Verona Street, was entered through the rear window, according to police.

Once the burglar got inside, he made off with the \$620 worth of goods, and exited through the front door.

### Concord heist

Car thieves made off with a brown 1993 Honda Accord parked on Concord Street overnight on Feb. 15.

The victim, 63, told police he'd parked the car between Gold and Duffield streets at 5 p.m., but when he went to get the car back at 8 p.m. the next day, it was gone.

### While he slept

A burglar robbed a Red Hook man's apartment blind while he slept on Feb. 16.

Police said the victim, who lives on Pioneer Street be-

tween Van Brunt and Richards streets, came home at 3 a.m. and noticed nothing askew in his apartment.

Yet, sometime between when he arrived home and when he awoke at 1:15 p.m., his apartment was robbed of a Dell laptop, a PlayStation 2 video game system and his cellular phone.

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Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 18th day of February, 2005, bearing the Index Number NS001012025, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to Assume the name of Guy Dale Baldwin. My present name is Guy Dale Baldwin aka Guy Dale Baldwin. My present address is 481 New York Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11225. My place of birth is Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is July 10, 1972.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 18th day of February, 2005, bearing the Index Number NS001012025, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to Assume the name of Marcella Marie Thompson. My present name is Marcella Marie Thompson. My present address is 600 East 12th Street, Apt. 6, Brooklyn, NY 11215. My place of birth is Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is April 28, 1968.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 18th day of February, 2005, bearing the Index Number NS001012025, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to Assume the name of Gregory Antonio Evelyn. My present address is 1164 4th Avenue, Apt. 4, Brooklyn, NY 11215. My place of birth is Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is March 1, 1975.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 18th day of February, 2005, bearing the Index Number NS001012025, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to Assume the name of Laila Rahmatouma. My present name is Laila Rahmatouma. My present address is 800 East 12th Street, Apt. 6, Brooklyn, NY 11215. My place of birth is Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is April 28, 1968.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 18th day of February, 2005, bearing the Index Number NS001012025, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to Assume the name of Rebecca Jane Boudreau. My present name is Rebecca Jane Boudreau. My present address is 132 Jefferson Avenue, Apt. 3, Brooklyn, NY 11215. My place of birth is Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is June 20, 1980.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 18th day of February, 2005, bearing the Index Number NS001012025, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to Assume the name of Abba Hassan. My present name is Abba Hassan. My present address is 132 Jefferson Avenue, Apt. 3, Brooklyn, NY 11215. My place of birth is Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is June 20, 1980.

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## March at Union Temple



### Shabbat Services

1st Friday every month, 6:30 pm

Other Friday evenings, 8:15 pm

Saturday mornings, 10:30 am

### Shabbat Across America

Annual celebration sponsored by National Jewish Outreach, featuring a Kabbalat Shabbat Service and family dinner. Adults: \$20; children 5-12: \$12; Under 5, free.

Friday, March 4 at 6:15 pm

Reserve now! Call 718-638-7600

Free Movie Screening -

"From Swastika to Jim Crow"

And discussion with filmmakers Joel Sucher and Steven Fischer

Providing a fresh perspective on race relations in America, this moving one-hour documentary chronicles how Jewish professors, expelled from Germany by the Nazis, established new lives at all-black colleges in the South.

Wednesday, March 9 at 7:00 pm

### Read Hebrew America

Learn your alef-bet! Free!

Sundays, March 6, 13, and 20, 9 - 10 am

### Family Purim Celebration

The whole Magilish plus pot-luck dinner and costume parade!

Thursday, March 24 at 6:00 pm

### Kindergarten "Ket"

A FREE activity group for Kindergarten-age children held on the first Sunday monthly. Crafts, snacks, games, stories - all make learning about Jewish heritage, holidays, and traditions FUN! Call 718-638-7600 to sign up.

Sunday, March 6 at 11 am

### "Raise Your Voices"

Shabbat morning study designed to make Shabbat text and music accessible to all. No knowledge of Hebrew needed.

Every Saturday morning (except Holidays)

9 am - 10:30 am

Coming in April

### Jews in Baseball

Former Yankees PR head Marty Appel will entertain us with stories of Jewish ball players and Jews who played important roles in baseball management, labor relations, broadcasting, and journalism. Plus, his latest book, *New Pitching for the Yankees*, will be available for signing.

Friday, April 10 at 10 am

### - A Reform Jewish Congregation -

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# Food co-op bagged for \$5,000

By Jess Wisloski

The Brooklyn Papers

Two co-ops artists robbed the Park Slope Food Co-op of a moneybag containing nearly \$5,000 on Feb. 16, say police.

The reporter of the crime, a 58-year-old Co-op coordinator, said she had received the bag from one of the volunteers, a young man, who at 12:15 pm brought the money up to the Co-op's offices on the second floor of the building on Union Street between Sixth and Seventh avenues.

Sharing the elevator with the volunteer were two unknown persons, but when the doors of the elevator opened, one of the people sharing the ride, a Hispanic woman, about 130 pounds with brown eyes and long, straight, red hair, dropped some change, police say.

The volunteer knelt down to help pick it up.

The volunteer then entered the inner office and handed the bag to the coordinator, who placed it under a desk. That's when the two strangers entered the office and tried to strike up a conversation with her.

According to the Co-op members, the two could only speak Spanish, and not long after trying to spark a conversation, they left the premises. A short time later, the coordinator discovered the moneybag missing.

A review of a security camera tape showed the male stranger leaving the site with the bag. He is described as an older Hispanic male with gray hair, weighing about 200 pounds.

**Bear-hug mug**

Muggers restrained a woman in a bear-hug and made off with \$700 on Feb. 20.

The victim told police she was followed along the street as she headed from the subway to her Sixth Avenue home at 1:11 am.

Suddenly a man grabbed her from behind and clasped tightly, preventing her from getting a good look at him.

Though the victim, 32, told police she struggled with her captor, he eventually set her free and made off with the cash.

**Sterling Pl. mug**

Muggers robbed a woman of the cell phone she was in the midst of using on Feb. 20 at 12:28 am.

The victim, 27, told police she was heading home when she was approached at the corner of Sterling Place and Fifth Avenue while she carried on a discussion on the phone.

The mugger approached her and demanded she turn over the phone and any money she had on her. The man appeared to be carrying a weapon, the victim told police, and she obliged, handing over \$15 and the \$65 cellular phone.

The robber took off towards Sixth Avenue.

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## POLICE BLOTTER

### Delivery cure

A group of robbers mugged a food deliveryman in a 10th Street parking lot on Feb. 15.

The victim told police he was sent to deliver a \$40 order to the lot between Fourth and Fifth avenues at 11 am.

When he spoke to the gentleman for whom he believed he was carrying the food, the victim was asked to enter the rear of the building. He said he would not.

Two male attackers then approached him and punched him in the back and in the gut. After beating him senseless, the attackers snatched the delivery order and fled into the building, the victim, 36, told police.

The victim refused medical attention and told police he sustained no serious injuries.

The building manager told police, "There were children running back and forth at that entrance" throughout the day. Additionally, the deliveryman told police he'd recognized one of the muggers as somebody he had delivered to on Seventh Street, not far from where the mugging took place.

**Livery robbers**

A male-female team mugged their gypsy cab driver on Feb. 15.

The driver told police he'd picked up the two passengers on the corner of Flatbush Avenue and Bergen Street, just a block from the police precinct, as he headed southbound at 11:45 pm.

As the taxi headed towards the park, the driver told police it

came to a brief stop, and one rider, a black male, stepped out of the car.

"Give me your money," demanded the man, described as 6-foot and 220 pounds, as he opened the front passenger-side door and struck the driver, 41, in the face.

The man took the victim's \$40 from a tray in the front console of the car.

The other rider, described as a black female, 20 to 30 years of age with long hair and a long, black coat, struck the driver in the back of the head through the partition, which was half-open.

Both individuals fled to a train station.

**Acura stolen**

Thieves ripped off a green 1998 Acura Integra parked overnight between Feb. 15 and Feb. 16.

The victim, 28, told police she parked on Sixth Street between Sixth and Seventh avenues, and had last seen her car at 8:30 pm the night before.

Upon returning to retrieve the car at 7 am, she discovered it missing with no traces of glass at the scene.

A police search of tow logs came up negative. The woman valued her car at \$9,000.

**Nab burglar**

A man who may have been attempting to break into a locked building struck a man who approached him to ask what he was doing on Feb. 17.

The victim told police he noticed what he suspected was a burglar in front of a building on Ninth Street between Third and Fourth avenues trying to open a lock with a giant set of keys.

When the victim — who was sure the man did not live in the building — approached him at 8:41 am, the suspected burglar yelled at him and then picked up a bicycle and struck the victim with it.

A suspect, 43, was arrested by 78th Precinct Police Officer Michel Median Jimenez and found to have burglar's tools on him.

**PPW burgle**

A burglar cleaned out a woman's apartment on Prospect Park West Feb. 17 sometime between 10 am and 6 pm while the victim was at work.

The victim, 26, said that when she returned to her apartment between 13th and 14th

streets, she noticed her drawers had been ransacked, and the top lock to her front door had been tampered with.

The only thing stolen appeared to be a laptop computer and a printer-scanner unit. Neighbors reported hearing no suspicious activity in the building.

**8th and 8th**

Car thieves made off with a red 2000 Nissan Frontier on Feb. 14 between 6:30 am and 1 pm.

The victim, 20, told police he had parked the car on Eighth Street between Eighth Avenue and Prospect Park West, an area hit by a rash of car thefts last week.

Upon his return to the car, he found it missing. Searches of tow records came up negative.

**Take tunes, TV**

Thieves stole the entire stereo system from a gray 1999 Lincoln Navigator, which included a TV hookup, sometime between Feb. 13 at 11:55 pm and Feb. 18 at 8:30 am.

The victim, 34, told police he had loaned the car to his mother, and she parked it on Prospect Park West between Seventh and Eighth avenues.

When the man returned to get the car, he noticed the driver's-side window was smashed, and damage had been done to the dashboard.

Stolen was a CD, cassette and digital radio changer with a TV system, worth \$3,500 total, and \$250 worth of compact discs.



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# Bridge Park, Montague dominate BHA meeting

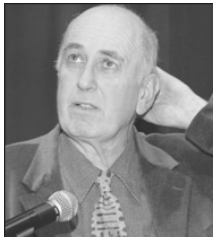
By Jess Wisloski  
The Brooklyn Papers

At the Brooklyn Heights Association's annual meeting, Feb. 17 at St. Francis College on Remsen Street, Nancy Bowe, president of the association, spoke about the developments facing Brooklyn Heights in the coming year.

Before introducing author Philip Lopate, who delivered the keynote speech, "New York's Waterfront and How it Got That Way," Bowe addressed the roughly 200 residents in attendance.

"We will see development activity that is unprecedented for the last 50 years," said Bowe, "and what comes with it is an unprecedented level of risk."

"We've all been watching what's happening in DUMBO; everything that can be renovated has been renovated," she said and mentioned last summer's approval of opening up the Downtown Brooklyn Plan, the addition of cruise ships to Brooklyn's piers and the development of Brooklyn Bridge Park along the Heights waterfront.



The annual meeting of the Brooklyn Heights Association was held at St. Francis College on Feb. 17. (At left) Philip Lopate read from his new book about the history of the New York waterfront. (At right) BHA president Nancy Bowe addresses the crowd.

"In the next year," said Bowe, "the BHA will have an unprecedented role." In Brooklyn's future, she urged members to become vocal and involved with the ongoing Downtown Traffic Study, as well as efforts by BHA members to push for historic preservation of a new landmark district, which she called

the "Borough Hall Skyscraper District."

Montague Street, she said, had its own fan base of "unsolicited volunteers" willing to organize a picket line and boycott if the old Waldenbooks space at the corner of Montague and Henry streets was inhabited by yet another optometrist, pharmacy or cellular phone store.

And she congratulated BHA members who have volunteered at Public School 8, on Hicks Street at Middagh Street, and helped the school not only to flourish but also seek out more funding and locations for expansion.

But the issue of greatest concern came up towards the end of her address.

"It is extremely frustrating to be here on Feb. 17, having been to several meetings among planners of (Brooklyn Bridge Park) and knowing that most of you have not had the opportunity to comment on the plan," she said. That plan now includes housing as the primary revenue generator.

"We view the concept of housing with an open mind," Bowe said, but wanted more details and to be able to "study closely the BBPDC's financial analysis, upon which their entire housing study hinges."

Following the awards presentation, Lopate, who lives in Carroll Gardens, addressed the future of Brooklyn's waterfront, the basis of his new book, "Waterfront: A Journey Around Manhattan."

Immediately the Brooklyn native, a New York Times contributor, who teaches journalism at Columbia University, the New School and Hofstra University, was asked his thoughts about the Brooklyn Bridge Park plan.

"In the best of all worlds it would be great if public space

didn't have to pay for itself," Lopate said. "It's sad that we've reached this point."

But he said that while he wasn't in favor of tall, high-rise buildings on the waterfront, he did find the "human live, the Casbah" of activity that low-rise housing could create preferable to just a wide-open park "that's only good when you're in a park's kind of mood."

"Should it go to high-rise housing, or should it go to shipping? I might favor a mix of both," said Lopate, who said Brooklyn's deep channel is naturally suited to shipping.

He said that to fear luxury hotels taking over the waterfront was as absurd to him as feeling the waterfront area "needs to be protected by a massive green belt. People do not move to New York City to get closer to nature."

"Couldn't it be a destination for ordinary citizens in their daily routines, not just when they're in a leisurely, park-y mood?" he asked and pointed out how much fun the developed areas of Water Street in DUMBO were to walk about.

"Granted, there's something sort of soothing about slowly moving water," he said, reading from his book, "but for 30 minutes, maximum. Soon it becomes a sterile delight for the urbanite raised on constant stimulation, and shopping."

When asked about using housing for the revenue, Lopate mulled it over.

"How can we trust their numbers?" he asked, pointing out economic variability. "At some point we're going to leap into the thick of it and somebody's going to get very rich. And it's not going to be me."

When Lopate was finished, Bowe accepted questions from the audience.

One man expressed concern about the 30-story tower he'd seen presented by park planners for Pier 6, which he said would obstruct his view of the Statue of Liberty. Bowe said it would block hers, too, but said she would not mind "if I'm convinced this is the only way we can get a park."

"I don't mind one bit. I am not convinced of that yet. There are still conversations to be had."



Firefighters respond to a fire that broke out Wednesday on the 11th floor of the Municipal Building, at 210 Joralemon St., around 9:30 a.m. The building was evacuated.

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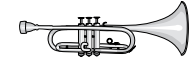
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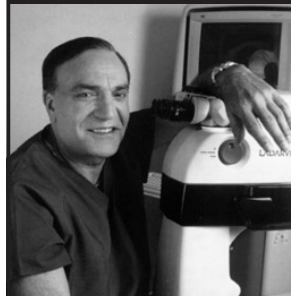
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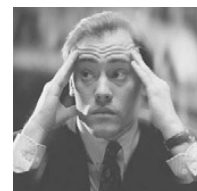
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# At together now: bonding, learning

Q: I'm only allowed to see my daughter from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. She's not doing well in first grade. I've told my ex that maybe my daughter is not getting enough attention at home with her schoolwork.

My ex says it's half my fault because I don't spend our time doing homework or practicing reading and writing. Instead, we go out to eat and then to the mall together or something similar.

I have so little time with her, and I'm just not sure what I should be doing.

A: To make the most of your brief visits together, forget the petty blame games and guilt trips. Your best bet: Turn reading into a cory daddy-daughter routine.

"This dad needs to give himself a break. He sees his daughter for four hours out of every week, and the mother says he's half responsible for the little girl's difficulties in first grade," says a divorced dad.

"It is ludicrous to think that he should spend those precious few minutes on homework when it takes at least half of that time just to reconnect with her after time apart."

Another dad agrees: "The father should stop feeling guilty. He's doing the best he can in a difficult situation, although he might devote one hour each visit to reading and the other to fun."

## Parent-to-Parent



By Betsy Flieger

Sheryl Gunning, a kindergarten teacher, sees a need for a change of mindset: "Helping your child learn to read is not a chore," she says.

"It can be a joyful, loving gift from parent to child and a source of hours of enjoyment. Instead of going to the mall, head to your local bookstore or library. Browse through the books together and pick out several, including one for your child to practice reading to you and one for you to read to your child."

Gunning suggests these steps to take to help a child

and strengthen your relationship along the way:

- Request a conference with the teacher. Ask him or her to be frank about the problems she sees. "Does your daughter have behavior issues, a learning problem or maybe she is missing her daddy?" Gunning says.

- Be open with the teacher. If she does not know your visitation arrangement, tell her. An understanding teacher will consider your position and honor your efforts to help your daughter. She can be flexible with homework and keep you informed about your child's progress.

- "This divorced dad has a limited but special opportunity to bond with his daughter," says Bryant Steele, who has primary custody of his children. "When they're together during the school year, he should focus on having a meal ready at his home and homework. After homework, which should only take a first-grader 45 minutes at most, read. And play games. Talk. Don't go out to the mall."

- On longer visits together, a better choice than the mall would be the local library, a zoo or a children's museum — "anything that would fascinate his child's young mind and create special memories of her dad's effort," Steele says.

- Cynthia Cudaback, an assistant professor, suggests Dad not separate what's fun and what's learning, or look at reading as burdensome practice.

"Please read with your daughter, for fun, not for practice," Cudaback says. "Read to her if she's not ready to read on her own. The excuse to read great children's books is one of the true joys of parenthood."

Puzzles and board games are great, too, she says. "They'll promote interaction and math skills. Order out for pizza and have a game night. Start a big puzzle and work on it together over time. When you combine learning and fun, maybe you can bargain for a few Saturday afternoons with your daughter."

Other ideas:

- A retired teacher in Tacoma, Wash., suggests that Dad set times during the week to help his daughter by phone with her homework. "They need a routine or the child will continue to be behind," she says.

"Take your child's teacher as a set of self-addressed, stamped envelopes and ask for your own set of progress reports and report cards."

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"My grandson, who is in fourth grade, is a grouch in the mornings. He complains repeatedly until he goes to school and is downright disrespectful. He's usually an angel, but in the morning he

rolls his eyes and tells his mother she's giving him too many instructions. He has even told her he hates her.

— a grandmother

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John Travolta, as Tony Manero, at 2001 Odyssey, the Bay Ridge nightclub featured in "Saturday Night Fever."

# 'Fever' floor on the block

Associated Press

The flashing, colorful Brooklyn dance floor where John Travolta strutted and hustled in "Saturday Night Fever" will be offered at auction, a dealer of Hollywood memorabilia said Tuesday.

The floor, which was the centerpiece of the 2001 Odyssey nightclub at 802 64th St. in Bay Ridge, was saved by owner Jay Rizzo after the club closed last week.

The auction will be held on April 1 at the galleries of Profiles in History, a memorabilia dealer in Beverly Hills, Calif., its editor, Kevin Haseley, said.

The floor will remain in New York City during the California auction. It has already attracted prospective bidders, particularly memorabilia collectors, Haseley said.

"We have interest from private collectors who want the dance floor for themselves, and from club owners who know the commercial value of having the floor made famous in 'Saturday Night Fever,'" Brian Chanes, director of sales at Profiles in History, told the Daily News.

Rizzo, who renamed the 2001 Odyssey to Spectrum in 1987, also said that the floor has long been a curiosity, especially among tourists.

"Over the years, we've had thousands of people who come here just to see it," Rizzo told the News. "It is incredibly popular with tourists — particularly from Europe."

In the 1977 movie, the floor was the scene where Travolta's character, Tony Manero, went from paint store clerk to disco playboy on Saturday nights.

The 10-year-old Profiles in History describes itself as the nation's leading dealer in guaranteed-authentic original historical photographs, letters, documents, vintage signed photographs and manuscripts, and auctioneer of Hollywood memorabilia.

In August 2003, Bay Ridge celebrated the neighborhood's 150th anniversary with a screening of "Saturday Night Fever" in Narrows Botanical Gardens.

While many of the establishments featured in the movie are now defunct (including the White Castle on 92nd Street where Travolta's bone-headed friends stand on a table and bark like dogs) the movie still holds a special place in the hearts of many.

In fact, tourists still wind up on the doorstep of Peggy Pierce, a Community Board 10 member who is the proud owner of the home on 79th Street where Tony Manero lived in the film.

The once gay house is now painted brown and white but fans find it anyway. Pierce said at the screening, noting that just a few years ago tourists from Brazil appeared in her driveway.

Pierce and her husband, Ray, moved into the home three months before "Saturday Night Fever" hit the theaters in December of 1977. Film crews returned six years later to make a sequel.

"He was just so nice," Pierce said of Travolta. "A real gentleman."

— with The Brooklyn Papers

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# FIRST PARK LOOK...

Continued from page 1

stone Brooklyn assemblywoman. "We as Brooklynites deserve to have this as it was in the beginning — an open and transparent process."

Yassky added that he didn't want to see any building within the park "beyond what is strictly necessary. We have to be very careful in reviewing this, and it is our goal to subject the plan to rigorous review."

To prevent the development of buildings before green space, he also suggested "putting a safeguard in place so

that development does not come before the park does."

The park, scheduled to break ground in 2008, would be complete, according to lead designer Michael Van Valkenburgh, in 2012.

Following the presentation of a model of the park and an explanation of the difficulties of greening formerly industrial piers, the planners and city officials took questions for about half an hour from the audience after about two hours of elected official comments and a walk-through of

the plan using a model and PowerPoint presentation by the designers.

Sitting on stage was Wendy Leventer, president of the BBPDC, as well as Van Valkenburgh and his associate, Matthew Urbanski, the landscape architects charged with designing the plan, as well as Kate Collignon of the city Economic Development Corporation, and Joshua Laird of the city's Department of Parks and Recreation.

Questions were submitted by the audience on index

cards with district managers from both boards reading aloud from the stack as time permitted.

Concerns were mostly about what was missing from the illustrative 2000 master plan and other ideas that had been considered before the plan was completely redesigned, like a possible pedestrian bridge connecting Montague Street to the park, a band shell for concerts and plays, and active recreational uses other than "kayaking and yachting" as one questioner put it.

The focus of many questions arose from the imperative that the park generate enough revenue to pay for its own yearly maintenance costs, projected to be \$15.2 million.

Much of the concern over the new park plans — which were devised without input from the public, unlike the 2000 plan, which was formulated after a series of public planning sessions that solicited the ideas of what community members wanted in the plan — centers around its reliance on market-rate co-ops or condos for revenue generation.

A question as to how much a marina planned at Piers 4 and 5 would generate in revenue for the self-sustaining park, was answered by Leventer.

"The marina will be revenue neutral," she said, setting the microphone down.

"Why?" shouted someone from the audience.

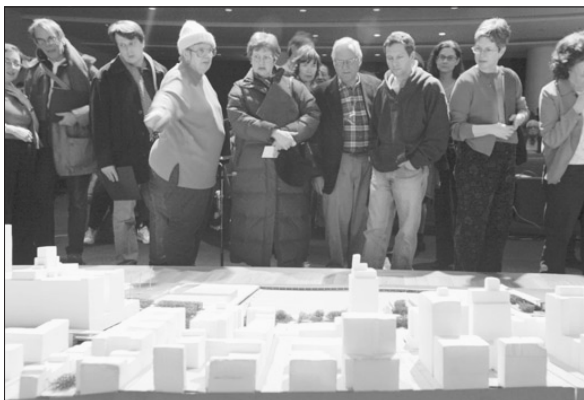
"Because it's not profitable," replied Van Valkenburgh.

Elaborating, Leventer said, "We don't know if anyone will come develop and do it, so it's not in the base cost of the plan."

"Why have you not provided access to the park from Montague Street?" read another question, which received a low hiss among the crowd.

"The cost of a pedestrian crossing from the promenade is expensive," began Leventer, and Van Valkenburgh interjected, "We haven't been charged to do that. But it's another one of those external divisive arrangements provided in the 2000 plan." He said it was left off "partly because there was considerable objection" from people living in Brooklyn Heights.

"It's politics," Van Valkenburgh said, "but there's also is



Community members study a model of the Brooklyn Bridge Park prepared by Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, at the first public meeting on the plan, at Polytechnic University on Tuesday.

another concern for people in the Heights about their neighborhood being used as a parking lot."

When a question arose as to when the public would be able to "review and receive copies of the analyses of costs and income," Leventer said, "Thursday of this week [a BBPDC Community Advisory Committee meeting on Feb. 24] we're having an expense meeting, and I think, um, Wednesday of next week [March 2]."

To that, Craig Hammerman, district manager of CB 6 said, "That's nice to know, but I think I speak for both boards when I say, when will the public be able to attend the meetings?"

"CAC meetings are open to the public. They've always been open to the public," said Leventer, referring to the meetings of a body that was mandated under the memorandum of understanding that created the BBPDC. Those meetings, which are not announced to the general public, have not been held since the park was redesigned. The CAC is comprised of appointed community representatives who have been involved in the park plan for years, although they were not consulted during the redesign, according to several CAC members.

Hammerman responded sternly, "I think the intent was to involve the public, and let the public know what's going on." He suggested the BBPDC publicize those meetings, and notify the community boards so the boards can post them on their Web sites.

"We can certainly consider that," said Leventer. "It's the first time I've heard that."

Hammerman also offered both board offices as a "repository of your financial analysis" which Leventer said she would provide only "when we are ready to release it."

A question arose as to whether the park would no longer be self-sustaining in 35 years. Last week, The Brooklyn Papers reported on a closed meeting with select community members on Feb. 11, during which a consultant hired by the BBPDC announced that the park would run a deficit after 35 years based on cost projections.

"The financial analysis for the park has a lot of different variables in it," Leventer said, mentioning that any small change could affect the ultimate outcome and feasibility. "We don't think the park is going to run out of money in 35 years. If we did, we would've proposed a different design."

Collignon, an EDC vice

president, added that if there was to be further development of housing or other revenue-generating structures in the future "an entirely new general project proposal and environmental impact statement will have to be done."

"That's true at any time," added Leventer. "We can't just decide we'll make the buildings bigger. If anyone is under that impression — it's simply not true. We're not allowed to, we couldn't do that."

The meeting ended at 9 pm, and as Armer wrapped it up he, too, sternly chided the planners for leaving the public out of their process thus far.

"We do need to find a way to constructively keep the public engaged," said Armer, in a way that "develops a consensus, instead of different variations of the truth. I leave it in your hands to develop something, because as good as it was with the model being here, it wasn't enough."

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# ASPCA arrests head of B'klyn animal shelter...

Continued from page 1

back later, but then did not return subsequent calls and messages left for him.

The arrest was only the latest fallout in an investigation of mismanagement and animal abuse involving the Hearts and Homes animal shelter, which opened at 908 McDonald Ave. in Kensington last June after operating out of vans and the homes of its founders and volunteers for 11 years.

Frustrating to those who reported problems with the shelter was the belated rescue, coming after many investigations by city and animal welfare authorities gave the organization a clean bill of health, despite ongoing complaints of fiscal and animal abuses over the past several months.

Rescuers from New York City Animal Care and Control (ACC) found the shelter to be harboring four starving dogs on Jan. 31 — two pit bulls and two mastiffs — caged in the basement of the space. Since June the group had rented a shuttered and dilapidated former car service storefront for their shelter, which did not have a license. Following the raid, Salomone led ACC officials to his van in Sunset Park, where he turned over the corpse of a brown-and-white male pit bull "encrusted with urine and feces," according to an ASPCA official, who said that Salomone later eluded investigators in two other dogs

that were in veterinary care. "We're satisfied that he had the obligation and responsibility to care for these animals," said Joseph Pentangelo, an investigator for the ASPCA, who described the six rescued pets, four of which were placed in veterinary care in poor condition, but are now improving vastly.

"Some of them have sores, all of them were underweight," he said. Former Hearts and Homes fundraiser Laurie Bleier — who has since turned into the shelter's most formidable opponent, using her Web site to criticize the management of the facility, its handling of donated money and care of the animals — thinks the ASPCA "dropped the ball on this."

"I think the investigation still has a long way to go," said Bleier. According to the city's organizational guidelines, the ASPCA has jurisdiction in cases of animal cruelty, but law enforcement agencies, such as the police, may also respond.

Pentangelo insisted that the organization had not discovered any cruelty at the shelter prior to the Jan. 31 raid, but had issued several notices of violation.

"I can tell you that a month ago we went there — two agents responded on a complaint that there were animals there without food or water,"



A dog photographed at Hearts and Homes shelter in November.

Pentangelo said, adding that they found "excessive feces" and "a smell," but the animals were "basically sound."

Instead of conducting a rescue, the agency visited the premises on three occasions, in December and January, and issued notices of violation twice, and once were unable to gain access to the building because nobody was there.

One time they warned the shelter managers to clean the unsanitary premises, and on Jan. 29, just two days before the Jan. 31 ACC rescue, the ASPCA told Todd Puma, the caretaker of the animals, to make sure the dogs were fed and cared for.

Sara Whalen, director of Pets Alive, a Middletown, N.Y., animal shelter, said she was afraid other animals from the shelter have gone unaccounted for.

"I'm sure other dogs died there," said Whalen, whose animal sanctuary removed 11 dogs and five cats from Hearts and Homes on Jan. 10 at the behest of Bleier and other shelter volunteers.

Though she's cautious to support all of Bleier's claims about the shelter managers, she did agree that Puma, who was in charge of the facility, should be investigated.

Both Puma, 38, and his wife,

Janie, 19, are still working with pets, according to Bleier. An employee at the Brooklyn Dog House, an animal grooming business in Gowanus, confirmed Todd Puma worked there full-time. Calls to Puma were not returned by press time.

The 11-year old Hearts and Homes organization was started by Salomone as a no-kill alternative shelter, and was best known for its volunteers and dogs camping out at busy shopping areas throughout Manhattan and Brooklyn. Regular setups included the plaza near Borough Hall along Court Street, on Montague Street near Henry Street and on Seventh

Avenue in Park Slope. The group always had a can or jar out to collect donations, which was what the shelter managers agreed upon as their salary when they took over, according to Bleier.

Francine, a former volunteer who did not want her last name used, said the Pumas routinely ran out of food during the two months — last October and November — that she worked there.

Whalen said she was concerned that the ACC raid came too late.

"This is going to get covered up," she said. "This is bigger than Hearts and Homes. Lots of organizations were contacted, like the ASPCA," but none stepped in soon enough, Whalen charged.

Gary Kaskel, director of the United Fund for Animals, an advocacy group, said it appeared to be a failure of the ACC and ASPCA to respond to inquiries by board members of Hearts and Homes.

"The Bloomberg administration cut all the budgets for all the agencies, including the animal control agencies," Kaskel said. "If they had had more manpower, they could've taken this earlier and relieved Hearts and Homes of their burden. As recently as Jan. 29-30 they had declined to take these animals."

In November, calls came in to The Brooklyn Papers from people concerned over the

management of the shelter who had read Bleier's online journal.

In December, The Papers reported that Attorney General Eliot Spitzer had commenced an investigation into alleged misuse and misappropriation of funds by Salomone.

Ed Boks, executive director of ACC, said he was oblivious to the problems until Jan. 26, despite claims by animal rescuers that they had contacted the agency repeatedly.

"Animal Care and Control didn't know anything about this until [Jan. 26]," said Boks, when he said he received an e-mail from Whalen that the situation at the shelter had gotten out of hand.

Boks said the lapse in time until the Monday rescue was spent trying to "win the confidence of the organization."

Salomone claimed that he was the one who contacted the animal-rescue agencies.

"We approached them, we needed the ASPCA and the ACC's help," he told The Papers after the raid.

When asked why The Papers' calls for comment in December on alleged abuses at the shelter were not returned, Boks said the agency never received them, and added that rescue, not enforcement, was his agency's charge.

"Calling our press office is not something that you can hold us to," said Boks, who referred a reporter to the agency's main number. Yet

ACC spokeswoman Rosemary Joyce said this week that calls left on Boks' voice mail "sat on a tape," when Boks was out, and to contact her directly for inquiries despite Boks' insistence to always call the main hotline. Calls to the hotline left a reporter on hold for over half an hour.

It's unfortunate that we weren't contacted directly," lamented Boks.

The city Department of Health issued two violations each, in November and December, to Hearts and Homes but, said Health Department spokesman Sid Dimsky, "there were no indications of animal cruelty observed at the time of that inspection." Instead, the violations were for operating without a permit and for nuisance, since their backyard was filled with dog feces.

Puma paid both of those fines. On repeat visits the investigators issued the same violations, said Dimsky.

So many people dropped the ball on this," said Bleier, who said she was mostly upset at the ASPCA.

Asked why the ASPCA didn't monitor the shelter after earlier complaints, Pentangelo said, "We're encumbered by what the law is," adding that without any government funding "animal cruelty statutes don't lend themselves to that type of enforcement."

He added, "Until we receive new information, we are satisfied with this arrest."

## LETTERS...

Continued from page 1

ments that avoided taking the kids to task, even as one student predicted that only "50 or 100 [soldiers] will survive" thanks to Bush being re-elected.

"The mayor and Mr. Kunhardt were right to issue apologies," said Councilman Bill DeBlasio, a former member of School Board 15.

"I particularly applaud Deputy Chancellor Farina for reaching out to Private Jacobs. Clearly there were more appropriate ways our sixth-graders could have expressed their views, even their dissent, such as writing to President Bush, the Department of Defense or the State Department."

Rep. Major Owens also weighed in, saying that while it was not wrong for Kunhardt to assign the project, he should have thought twice about sending out the letters.

"The first lesson of any teacher is the teaching of free speech and after that the teacher has to use his judgment regarding what to do with the assignments," Owens said on Wednesday through a spokeswoman.

Greene did not say whether Kunhardt actually read the missives before passing them on or simply sent them off unchecked.

In a statement issued by the Education Department, Kunhardt apologized, saying, "It was never my intention to demean or insult anyone. I never meant for the words of my students to hurt any of our troops. The responsibility for this action is mine alone, and I apologize."

Jacobs said he had looked forward to the letters, much as he had when students from a school in New Jersey sent him written support.

"If I were in Iraq and read that the youth of our nation doesn't want me to be there and doesn't believe in what I'm doing, it would mess up my head," Jacobs told The Post. He has been stationed in North Korea for nearly a year, and was told that he could soon be headed to Iraq.

"It boggles my mind that children could think this stuff," he added.

## FDNY: Thief flashed hero's badge



Engine 226 Firefighter David DeRubio, of Bensonhurst, who died in the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001.

By Jotham Sederstrom

The Brooklyn Papers

A man who routinely flashed a dead 9-11 hero firefighter's badge around the city was busted trying to use the stolen shield to get out of an auto theft rap in Bay Ridge.

Fire officials said that Grand Casey, 36, a childhood friend of Firefighter David DeRubio — who died in the World Trade Center — was arrested shortly after midnight on Feb. 21 for trying to steal a Mustang near a gas station on Fourth Avenue at 65th Street.

After being hauled into the 68th Police Precinct by Fire Marshal Fred Heffel, Casey claimed he was a firefighter injured at Ground Zero and that he retired shortly after Sept. 11, 2001. When Heffel voiced his suspicions, Casey lunged at him, according to a criminal complaint filed with the Kings County District Attorney's office this week. Fire marshals found DeRubio's badge in his wallet.

Casey, of Bay Ridge, has 20 previous arrests include one for assaulting a firefighter, according to published reports. He was charged by the Brooklyn district attorney's office with attempted assault, menacing, resisting arrest and harassment. Bail was set at \$1,500.

It was unclear at press time whether charges of impersonating a firefighter or stealing his badge would be added. A spokesman for the Fire Department said an investigation was ongoing.

"It's a terrible act for Mr. Casey to por-

try himself as a firefighter or any emergency responder and take it to the level of saying he was at the towers that day," said Fire Department spokesman Jim Long. "It's a huge injustice to the families that experienced so much loss."

Born and raised in Sunset Park, DeRubio served on Engine 226, at State and Dean streets in Benson Hill, and lived in Bensonhurst with his wife, Lorraine, and their now teenage daughter Jessica. He lived most of his life within a 40-block radius of his childhood home on 48th Street, where he grew up with his six sisters and brothers, four of who became firefighters.

The arrest of Casey, a childhood friend of DeRubio, couldn't have come at a worse time, say family members.

DeRubio's mother, Marion, told The Brooklyn Papers this week that news of the arrest reached her home on 73rd Street in Bay Ridge just after the city medical examiner's office notified her that they had identified a leg as DeRubio's. It was one of the last 11 identifications the city would make as the coroner's office announced this week that it had exhausted all efforts to identify remains of trade center victims — leaving more than 1,100 families without a remnant of their loved ones.

The discovery means they will have to exhume remains they buried in 2002 to include the newly identified body part, said Marion DeRubio.

Both Casey's arrest, and DeRubio's exhumation and re-burial will weigh heavily on the minds of the fallen hero's family members

when they meet on March 9 to celebrate what would have been his 42nd birthday.

"I don't know what to tell you," said Marion DeRubio. "I still can't think about my son without crying. I don't know what this kid was thinking."

"It wasn't right what he did," said the still-grieving mother. "Just let him rest in peace."

Lenh Magnusson, DeRubio's nephew, said that the entire ordeal has been hard on the family, not least of all the arrest of Casey, who she said grew up with her uncle. She believes that Casey stole the badge during a ceremony last year when 48th Street at Seventh Avenue was named for DeRubio.

"It's tough for us because, yeah, he's a real jerk, but my grandmother [Marion] feels sorry for him. I mean he was a friend of the family," said Magnusson, emphasizing the word "was."

Published reports say that Casey was drunk when Heffel spotted him chasing down the red Mustang. When asked why he was chasing the car — on foot, no less — Casey allegedly said that the car was being stolen from him, not the other way around. After Heffel and another firefighter hauled both Casey and the driver of the red Mustang, Casey, did not return calls seeking comment. Casey, who was still in jail at press time, could not be reached.

"It's one thing stealing the badge, said angered fire spokesman Paul Iannizzotto. "But it's another thing stealing the identity of a dead fireman. It's just sick."

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

February 26, 2005



Beauty aids: (Clockwise from top left) Barbara Los relaxes before receiving a facial at 119 Smith Street Spa in Boerum Hill; Susan Stratton performs reflexology at Sage Healing Arts in Park Slope; Laura Daly gets a makeover at Cue in Bay Ridge; and bath and bodycare products at Karen's Body Beautiful in Clinton Hill.

# SPA

## Report 2005

**G**O Brooklyn's fifth annual Brooklyn Spa Report comes amid another exhausting winter. But Brooklyn's spas have treatments that can relieve all that ails you. They can boost your spirit, melt away your muscle tension and rehydrate your body from limp locks to dry, scratchy soles.

New spas and holistic centers are continuing to spring up throughout the borough: **Aria Spa and Wellness Center** (this page) opened in Brooklyn Heights with a mission to rejuvenate and relax its clients, so they

don't end up on the other side of the business — a sports rehabilitation clinic; Bay Ridge's **Cue** has extended its pampering of clients from the treatment room to the dressing room by melding a traditional salon and spa with a clothing boutique (page 8); **119 Smith Street Spa** in Boerum Hill is on a mission to provide top-quality skincare to its neighbors (page 12); and **Sage Healing Arts** brings its expertise in reflexology and mommy-to-be massage to Park Slope (page 12).

Many Brooklyn salons, spas and specialty stores sell products

to help you maintain a beauty regimen — economically — at home; see our "Do it yourself" product guide on page 8. Finally, turn to our "Spa Directory" (page 11), which also lists holistic therapy centers and boutiques, to book an appointment for a better you.

Remember, being stressed out and winter-ravaged is a choice. Instead, we hope you'll experience for yourself the world of remedies available to you through our Brooklyn Spa Report 2005.

— Lisa J. Curtis, GO Brooklyn Editor

## Healthy living

### Treatments at Brooklyn Heights' new Aria Spa and Wellness Center reduce stress, rehydrate

By Lisa J. Curtis  
GO Brooklyn Editor

For those who think that massages, facials and body treatments are just for those types who pamper themselves, you're right. But Carol V.R. De Costa, a Brooklyn Heights doctor and owner of the new Aria Spa and Wellness Center, maintains that there's nothing wrong with that. In fact, she says there are many therapeutic rewards for indulging yourself once in a while — and better yet, on a routine basis.

"Massage can help with stress relief," De Costa told GO Brooklyn in her new spa, which opened in December. "Stress leads to hypertension and cardiovascular disease."

The doctor's spa is adjacent to her Rehabilitation Medicine and Sports Services clinic, ReMASS, on Montague Street at Court Street.

"As a physician on the [ReMASS] side, I see a lot of muscle aches and pains," said De Costa, who is also the physician for all of the teams of Medgar Evers College. "We like to do prevention here when we can." Gesturing towards the side of her offices with the clinical examination rooms and exercise equipment she said, "There, the motto is 'work hard' and here [at Aria] it's 'get pampered.'"

De Costa considers her spa a retreat from the

hustle and bustle of Montague Street. When opening the door to Aria, one is greeted with a bouquet of vibrant green bamboo, fluorescent lighting foiled by sweeping red fabric and flickering candles, pale-blue paint and brown bamboo wall coverings. The handsome visuals, combined with hushed music and the trickling of a wall-mounted waterfall, do indeed make for a soothing refuge for a Brooklyn Heights mom looking for peace, quiet and a facial or a buff athlete awaiting a medical massage for an injury.

The entire spa is available for party rentals, in addition to access to the sunny yellow exercise room with enormous windows and a break room. The spa has two spacious treatment rooms, a shower and an infrared sauna (which is complimentary with massages and body treatments).

Prior to my appointment at Aria, spa director Rayssa Abreu graciously greeted me with a warm cup of herbal tea and an assortment of flavored dried fruits.

For the winter, Aria's menu offers a long list of healing services. I sampled the 90-minute signature shea butter body wrap (\$175) in the hopes of banishing dry, itchy skin antagonized by freezing temperatures and blasting heat indoors and a 45-minute mini-facial (\$65) to help rehydrate my dry, red skin.

Abreu is also the spa's aesthetician and expert



Let's get physical: Physician Carol V.R. De Costa shows off the exercise room in her Rehabilitation Medicine and Sports Services clinic, ReMASS. Her new Aria Spa is adjacent to this Brooklyn Heights facility.

on Gerard's, the line of Italian products Aria carries. What most impressed me was her ability and enthusiasm for tailoring my facial and the body treatment to my needs — incorporating a few "vegetable extracts" from the wide variety at her disposal to achieve results. Whether it was gingering to energize and tone or geranium to soothe and firm in the body treatment or a couple of drops of the astringent eucalyptus in the facial mask to add oxygen (and relieve my congestion!), the treatments were healing for the skin and mood-boosting, too.

"I always try to customize the treatment," said Abreu. "You could come in 10 times and have 10

different experiences. You'll see something different every time you come, but it will be just as special as the first time."

During the mask, Abreu gently heats eye pads soaked in a toner before applying them to eyelids. Before removing the facial mask, Abreu winds a warm, wet towel around the face. It's these little details that make for a memorable facial and give clients the fortitude to brave the cold again. Her facial massage was so relaxing that it transported me right into a catnap.

The mini facial includes cleansing, skin analysis, steaming, exfoliation (in this case, an enzyme peel), a mask, massage and moisturizer

without the extractions. If not for the neck-to-toe shea butter wrap I was in, Abreu says the mini facial would also include a neck, décolletage, hand and arm massage.

The shea butter body treatment includes neck-to-toe exfoliation with a cream containing granules that aren't as abrasive as a salt scrub, followed by a shower, 15 minutes in the small, wood sauna, massaging the skin with the melted shea butter fortified by Abreu's blend of oils, then the actual wrap in plastic sheets for oil absorption. (Before she melts it, the shea butter, a fat obtained from the seeds of the African shea tree, looks a bit like Crisco.)

While wrapped, Abreu gives her clients a scalp massage, but I opted for the mini-facial during this visit. After I was unwrapped, Abreu wiped off excess oils with warm, wet mitts, leaving soft, soothed, moisturized, fragrant skin behind. The facial minimized the baggage under my eyes and my face looked — and felt — rejuvenated.

Aria massage therapist Harold Achille says he enjoys his work because "the doctor cares about her patients and will use any modality to keep a client healthy." In fact, De Costa performs the "acupuncture face lifts" offered on the list of services.

Yet Aria offers many more relaxing, restorative services including an array of massages from medical, to pregnancy, to hot stone; a list of facials including those for psoriasis or acne sufferers; and several body scrubs and wraps, including a peat body treatment. While manicures and pedicures are not offered, Abreu said Botox, laser hair reduction and Restylane injections will be coming soon.

Before leaving her native Dominican Republic, Abreu said she was studying to become a doctor. After my experience at Aria, I'd agree with De Costa that Abreu's healing thoughts and kindness come through with every stroke of her hand.

See Spa Directory on page 11 for more information about Aria Spa and Wellness Center.

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# From skin to snakeskin

Cue offers everything from micro-dermabrasion to miniskirts

By Erin Marie Daly  
for The Brooklyn Papers

Lots of women know that the cure for getting over a bad day can sometimes be as simple as treating yourself to a new shade of lipstick. At Cue, which opened on Feb. 3 in Bay Ridge, Lynn Sanders and Natasha Antonovsky specialize in the concept of makeover as mood transformer, and they refuse to let their customers walk out the door until they're looking "absolutely fabulous" from head to toe. "I get excited to help people look good," co-owner Lynn Sanders told GO Brooklyn.

Cue, formerly the site of Blush Salon Spa, on Third Avenue at 87th Street, aims to transform "the whole woman" by offering indulgent spa treatments, hair and makeup services and trendy boutique clothing with personal shopping assistance—all under the same roof. It's the one-stop shop for becoming a new and improved you.

"Our concept is to keep you looking great at any age," said Sanders. They do so by tempering brutal honesty with a sort of sixth sense about what looks good.

"If something doesn't work for a customer, I tell her to take it off," Sanders emphasized. "Our ultimate goal is the customer's happiness."

Antonovsky, who met through mutual clients while working at separate salons, want their customers to feel at home, offering tea and conversation as clients browse the brightly lit clothing boutique at the front of the store.

The clothes range from sequin-studded Italian designer jeans to flirty chiffon blouses with ribbons and lace, all neatly arranged on hanging silver racks bordering the spacious display



Before and after: Laura Daly, 18, of Bay Ridge is transformed by Cue's hairdressers, makeup artists and fashion stylists.

room. Most clothing ranges in size from 0 to 12, but Sanders emphasizes that Cue will work with each individual customer by making special request orders when possible.

Funky, trendy accessories such as beaded purses and chunky bangle bracelets round out the contemporary collection, which changes every two weeks as Sanders and Antonovsky add new items obtained from boutique shows and up-and-coming fashion manufacturers.

"We're trying to offer a unique style," said Sanders. "If you buy an outfit here, you won't see it on anybody else."

The philosophy at Cue is that "style and fashion, when put together correctly, can make a woman of any age sexy and feminine," said Sanders. When one woman came to Cue for a



pre-Valentine's Day makeover, Sanders picked out a shirt that matched the woman's eyes and complemented her body type.

"Every woman wants her boyfriend or husband to acknowledge her," said Sanders. "Her boyfriend had never acknowledged her style before, so she was shocked when he told her how beautiful she looked. She said from now on, she's buying all her clothes from me!"

Cue's owners are particularly excited about their upcoming spring line, which will include more colorful shoes and handbags.

"Now spring is in the air, and everyone wants color," said Sanders. "We won't bore you. No more drab—there will be colors that pop!" Cue's inventory already includes lots of creative touches: sequined sandals,

black purses studded with fluorescent buttons and gemstone pendant necklaces.

But the perfect outfit is only the beginning. French double doors lead to the serenely lit spa services area, where Antonovsky, who has 25 years of skincare experience, performs skin treatments such as waxing, ultrasonic micro-dermabrasion and facials using Dr. Murad products.

Sanders, who has been cutting hair since she was a teenager, does customized coloring and designer haircuts in an adjoining room. A massage is also available by appointment for reflexology sessions as well as Swedish, deep tissue and hot stone massages.

Recently, two Bay Ridge residents, Laura Daly, 18, and Maryann Orlando, 52, were queens for a day at Cue. Daly, a salesgirl at Cue, called her makeover a good experience that she would recommend to her friends.

"Lynn said she was just going to do a little makeup," said the high school cheerleader, "but then she went ahead and did everything." After her glamorous makeover, "people saw her around the neighborhood and wanted to get their hair and makeup done too," said Sanders.

"I don't usually look like that," Daly said. "The makeover showed a different side of me." Orlando, modeling Cue's more mature styles, a fitted skirt-suit with a snakeskin pattern, looked like she could have walked off the set of "Sex and the City."

So far, Cue's customers have ranged from a young woman getting ready for a romantic weekend away to an older one preparing for lunch at the Plaza Hotel. Sanders and Antonovsky pride themselves on "honesty and expertise" and want their customers to walk away "loving their hair, skin and outfit."

In the same way that your best friend wouldn't let you see something that didn't flatter you, the owners of Cue go out of their way to help their customers find the best outfit, makeup and hairdo for each individual.

"We want to help them look and feel as good as they can," said Sanders. "It's exciting and rewarding. It's all about the woman!"

See Spa Directory on page 11 for more information about Cue.

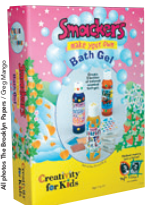
## Do it yourself

Products used at home or on-the-go prolong spa services' benefits

By Lisa J. Curtis  
GO Brooklyn Editor

### Tea-riffic salts

Karen's Body Beautiful White Tea Bath Salt: Glass milk-bottle container and ribbon make this a handsome gift. While you steep yourself in this relaxing bath, the scent of a tall glass of sugared iced-tea, garnished with lemon, is released. (21.1 oz.) \$18, Karen's Body Beautiful.



### It fig-ures

Karen's Body Beautiful Fig Tea Sugar Body Scrub: No need to use lotion after using this exfoliating and moisturizing sugar scrub. Buffs off dry skin and leaves what remains smooth and soft. Unique heavenly fragrance lingers after rinsing with water. (21.2 oz.) \$20, Karen's Body Beautiful.

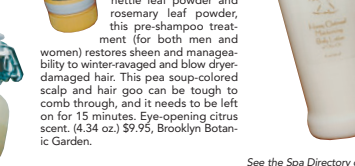
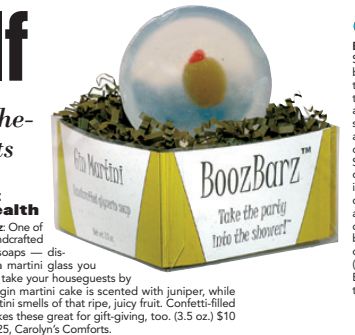
### Toast your health

BoozBarz: One of these handcrafted glycerin soaps—displayed in a martini glass you supply—will take your houseguests by surprise. The gin martini cake is scented with juniper, while the apple martini smells of that ripe, juicy fruit. Confetti-filled packaging makes these great for gift-giving, too. (3.5 oz.) \$10 each or 3 for \$25, Carolyn's Comforts.



### Good clean fun

Smackers Make Your Own Bath Gel: Creativity for Kids kit includes enough ingredients to make three travel-size containers of bath gel, including clear gel base; strawberry, peach and vanilla fragrance tubes; and food coloring. Tools (dropper, funnel, mixing sticks) make kids, ages 7 and older, feel like (clean) mad scientists. (Magic markers to decorate labels are not included.) (8 oz.) \$16.95, Brooklyn Botanic Garden.



### Best foot forward

Burt's Bees Coconut Foot Creme: Soothe those boot-bound feet with this vitamin E-fortified cream with a strong aroma of sweet coconut and a bright note of peppermint. Slather on the deeply penetrating botanical oils before bed and cover with cotton socks to banish rough, callused skin. (4.34 oz.) \$9.95, Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

### Cracking up

Gilden Tree Shea Butter Balm: This little, portable jar packs a big (healing) punch. The masculine Zen Forest scent (soon to be renamed Kirin Forest) is made from a secret blend of essential oils. Comprised of 95 percent shea butter balm (with beeswax and vitamin E), it melts on contact with your skin, soothing and calming those dry, cracked areas—especially on hands, feet and elbows. (1 oz.) \$6, 119 Smith Street Spa.

### C'mere honey

Karen's Body Beautiful Honey Oatmeal Moisturizing Body Lotion: Made with olive oil, this mildly scented lotion deeply moisturizes without leaving behind an oily film. (8 oz.) \$10, Karen's Body Beautiful.

See the Spa Directory on page 11 for spa and store locations.

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## SPADIRECTORY

Listed below are Brooklyn spas and the services and products they offer. Unless otherwise noted, a basic facial and basic massage are one-hour treatments.

### Amelia's Downtown Studio

450 Court St. at Third Place in Carroll Gardens, (718) 624-7267. Basic one-hour facial: \$50; basic one-hour massage: \$40. Amelia Chiaro, the owner of the former children's hair salon Little Angels will open a new salon and spa, Amelia's, at the beginning of March. Amelia's will offer facials, massages, waxing, tanning and hairstyling, cutting and coloring. Keeping with the tradition of Little Angels, there will be a children's section in the salon, where the little ones can get their hair trimmed while sitting in a fire engine, tractor or a BMW chair. Closed Mondays. Accepts MasterCard and Visa.

### Aria Spa and Wellness Center

(at Rehabilitation Medicine Sports Services) 189 Montague St. at Court Street, Suite 200, in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 852-7073, www.ariaspa.org. Basic 75-minute facial: \$90; basic one-hour massage: \$90. Open since December 2004, Aria Spa is affiliated with Dr. Carol V.R. De Costa's Rehabilitation Medicine and Sports Services Center, ReMASS. Uses the Italian product line, Geranthi. Offers massages (including medical, pregnancy, hot stone and more), body treatments and acupuncture. Botox and laser hair reduction to come. Infrared sauna use is complimentary.



Serious about skincare: 119 Smith Street Spa owner Marzena Berezinska takes a seat in her spa's tranquil lounge.

### Area Treatment Center/Emporium

281 Smith St. at Sackett Street in Cobble Hill, (718) 522-1906, www.areaofbrooklyn.com. Basic one-hour facial: \$90; basic one-hour massage: \$85. Dr. Haugsholm and Julieanne products. Offers facials, massages (including prenatal) and body treatments. Receive a free yoga class on day of treatment. Special packages available. Also operates a yoga studio and store. American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa. Open daily.

### Bruno Salon and Spa

6911 Shore Road at 69th Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 921-0736, www.brunosalonandspa.com. Basic 75-minute facial: \$65; basic 55-minute massage: \$70. In addition to facials and massages, this full-service hair salon and spa offers pedicures and manicures, light concept nails, makeup application, hair treatments, hair styling and coloring, body treatments, photo rejuvenation, waxing and wax removal. An in-house doctor performs the most complex procedures, such as Botox and injectable wrinkle fillers. Ask about special event (wedding and prom night) services. Open daily. Accepts American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa.

### Cue

8705 Third Ave. at 87th Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 921-4678. Basic facial: \$60; basic massage: \$72. Open since Feb. 3, this full-service salon and spa offers body treatments, facials, massages, ultrasonic microdermabrasion, haircuts and color, Japanese hair straightening, makeup applications and waxing. Dr. Murad products. Clothing boutique and spa open Tuesday through Sunday; salon services by appointment only. American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa. Closed Mondays.

### Chez Madlen Beauty Center Day Spa

918 Kings Highway at East Ninth Street in Sheepshead Bay, (718) 339-0222, (718) 336-1611. Basic facial: \$75; basic massage: \$60. Full-service hair salon and spa offering facials, massages, manicures, pedicures, facials, waxing and make-up application. Nuxus Photo-organic products. Discover, MasterCard and Visa. Closed Saturdays.

### Creative Hair and Spa

326 Ninth St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 788-4796. Basic facial: \$55; basic massage: \$55. Open since 1985. Offers hair cut and color, skincare, permanent makeup, spa manicures, spa pedicures, nail sculpting, facials, massage treatments (including hot stone) and body scrubs. Gift certificates and gift packages available. Use Repeshape, Pevonia, Dnir and Dr. Nona products. Discover, MasterCard and Visa. Open daily.



Aria Spa and Wellness Center's Raya Abreu opens one of the treatment rooms where facials and massages take place.

ments. MasterCard and Visa. Open daily.

### Diva Salon & Spa

87 Court St. at Orange Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 222-0400. Basic facial: \$50; basic massage: \$50. Open for five and a half years, this full-service hair salon offers facials, massage, hair cut and coloring, Japanese hair straightening, manicures, pedicures, makeup application, permanent makeup and waxing. MasterCard and Visa. Open daily.

### D'mai Urban Spa

157 Fifth Ave. at Lincoln Place in Park Slope, (718) 398-2100, www.dmaurbanspa.com. Basic facial: \$95; basic massage: \$95. Offers massage therapy, facials, body treatments, pedicure, scalp treatment, green tea acid peel, manicures, pedicures and waxing. Treatments include: D'mai, which opened in February 2004, has six treatment rooms and carries Soma Dakar and Dermologica and Emergent products. Gift certificates and spa packages available. American Express, MasterCard and Visa. Open daily.

### DownTime Day Spa

115 North Seventh St. at Berry Street in Williamsburg, (718) 218-9680, www.downtimespa.com. Basic facial: \$75; basic massage: \$75. Offers an array of facials, phyto peel, microdermabrasion, body treatments, massage, reflexology, full-body treatments, waxing and waxing. American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa. Open daily.

### Elan Salon & Day Spa

157 Seventh Ave. at Garfield Place in Park Slope, (718) 789-1700. Basic facial: \$50; basic massage: \$60. Offers haircuts and coloring, waxing, manicures and pedicures, facials, electrolysis, eyelash and eye-

brow tints, ear piercing and body treatments. Visa and MasterCard. Open daily.

### Goldy's Clinic

265 Avenue U at Lake Street in Gravesend, (718) 265-2499, www.goldysclinic.com. Basic facial: \$70; basic massage: \$80. Open since 1995, Goldy's Clinic offers facials, massages, body treatments, laser hair removal and permanent makeup. La Roche Posay, Obagi and Guinot products. American Express, MasterCard and Visa. Closed Saturdays.

### The HomeSpa

300 Court St. at Douglas Street in Cobble Hill, (718) 598-8668, www.homespa.com. Basic 75-minute facial: \$90; basic 75-minute massage: \$85. The HomeSpa uses their own brand of products as well as Dermologica and Avance. Four treatment rooms offer facials, massages, body treatments and waxing. Offers Jade tangle mineral-based cosmetic line. Services for kids and teens. Discount available when using The HomeSpa Gift Card. Check Web site for upcoming promotions. American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa. Open daily.

### Il Camellion Salon and Day Spa

266 Seventh Ave. at Eighth Street in Park Slope, (718) 788-1700. Basic facial: \$85; basic massage: \$95. Uses Avenda products in its services and offers haircuts and coloring, massage therapy, facials, body treatments, waxing and makeup services. American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa. Closed Mondays. For more information about Il Camellion's products visit www.ilcamellion.com.

### InnerSpree Day Spa

203 Grand St. at Driggs Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 599-2377, www.innerfree.com. Basic facial: \$65; basic 75-minute massage: \$85. Open since July 2003.

## Spa protocol

- When making your appointment let the spa know if you prefer a man or a woman to perform your services. Don't wait until you show up — it could be too late for them to accommodate you.
- Arrive 15 minutes early for your appointment, so you have time to unwind and check in. If you're late, the time could come out of your treatment.
- Go to the bathroom before your service.
- Generally, expect to give 48 hours notice when canceling an appointment. Many spas will charge a fee if you give less notice.
- Always share any medical problems or special considerations you have with the therapist or aesthetician — especially if you have allergies or sensitive skin. Also let them know if you prefer a deep tissue massage or lighter touch.
- Expect to tip 15 to 20 percent on all services, and by the tip in cash. Many spas won't add the tip to your charge receipt, but use small envelopes for gratuities.
- Occasionally, service offers are made to you in the midst of the treatment. Before you agree, ask if an additional fee will be charged.

this full-service salon and spa offers hair care, manicures, pedicures, body treatments, facials and massages. Sauna. Private parties available. American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa. Open Sundays for private parties only. Closed Mondays.

### Irene Dinov

119 Montague St. at Hicks Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 855-5900. Basic massage: \$75; basic facial: \$65. Full-service hair salon and spa offers skincare, facials, massage, waxing, body treatments (including mud wraps) manicures and pedicures. Yonka products. American Express, MasterCard, Visa and Discover. Closed Mondays.

### Lifestyles for Body & Soul Beautifying Spa

185 Atlantic Ave. at Court Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 797-3062. Basic facial: \$65. This full-service hair salon and spa offers packages and a wide array of treatments including manicures, pedicures, facials, glycolic peel, makeup application. By appointment only, waxing, tanning and body treatments. MasterCard and Visa. Closed Sundays.

### Magnolia Day Spa

124 Bedford Ave. at North 10th Street in Williamsburg, (718) 599-5780, www.magnoliaspa.com. Basic 75-minute facial: \$50; basic massage: \$60. Opened July 2001, this spa offers facials, manicures, pedicures, body treatments, bronzing application, microdermabrasion and waxing. Dnir and Glymed product lines. American Express, MasterCard and Visa. Closed Sundays.

### Nu Yu Day Spa

43 Clifton Place at Grand Avenue in Clinton Hill, (718) 783-2616. Basic facial: \$45; basic massage: \$80. Open since December 2003, this spa offers facials, massages (including mommy-to-be), body treatments, waxing, silk wraps for nails, manicures and pedicures. GM Collin products. American Express, MasterCard and Visa. Closed Mondays.

### 119 Smith Street Spa

119 Smith St. at Dean Street in Boerum Hill, (718) 643-0087. Basic facial: \$80; basic massage: \$80. Open since November 2004, this spa offers facials (including one customized for men), body scrubs, massages, manicures, pedicures and waxing. Spa packages and gift certificates available. Series discounts. Use Dermologica and GM Collin products. American Express, MasterCard and Visa. Closed Mondays.

### Orisco Nails & Spa

224-B Atlantic Ave. at Court Street in Boerum Hill, (718) 858-1920. Facials: \$75; massage: \$75. Offers waxing (including Brazilian), manicures, pedicures, body treatments, facials, electrolysis, eyelash and eyelash tinting. Walk-ins welcome for most services. Cash and gift certificates by appointment only. Currently offering 20 percent off facials and massages. Astara products. Gift packages available. American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa.

### Pilo Arts Day Spa & Salon

8412 Third Ave. at 84th Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 748-7411, www.pilospa.com. Basic 55-minute facial: \$70; basic 55-minute massage: \$80. Full-service hair salon offering manicures, pedicures, makeup application, light concept nails, Japanese hair straightening, haircuts and hair color. The spa offers facials (including oxygen blast, four layer, collagen regeneration and facial), massages, waxing (including Brazilian), wraps, lash and brow dye, reflexology, scrubs, microdermabrasion and electrolysis. Outdoor garden available in season. Offers extensive wedding services including a bridal headpiece boutique. Dermatology services hosted by Dr. David Sim of the Cosmeto & Laser Center of Bay Ridge on March 7 at 7 p.m. RSV required. Repurchase products and their own skincare line. Gift certificates available. Series discounts available. American Express, MasterCard and Visa. Closed Mondays.

### Rompal

319 Sixth Ave. at Second Street in Park Slope, (718) 855-9149. Basic facial: \$45; basic massage: \$60. Offers European style massages, facials, body wraps, waxing, manicures, pedicures and electrolysis.

Continued on page 14...

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# Dial 119

Skincare is top priority at newest Smith Street spa

By Lisa J. Curtis  
GO Brooklyn Editor

Because of her flawless skin, aesthetician and 119 Smith Street spa owner Marzena Brzezinska is her own best advertisement for her new Boenem Hill spa.

"We really use good products here and I use them on myself — otherwise I'm not a good seller," said Brzezinska. "And I would only put good products on my own skin." 119 Smith Street Spa uses Dermalogica and GM Collin products in their treatments.

Brzezinska, 29, has been in the spa business for three years, while fellow aesthetician Margo Tomczyk has been poring over customers for seven. Both women agree that the most important aim of the new spa is to provide great skincare services for the neighborhood.

In fact, clients are asked to fill out a form before their service. "That's so we can keep track of when they come in, what they have done and which products are working," said Brzezinska. "I want to know what they like and how we can improve the place."

While the spa offers Swedish and deep-tissue massage, it's clear by the sheer number of facials offered that those are the spa's focus. Among the facials available are those to moisturize, relieve stress, deep clean and those customized for men. 119 Smith

Street also offers masks for dehydrated or acne-prone conditions and two body treatments (aromatherapy body scrub and honey body scrub).

"This location used to be a nail salon, so we still offer nail services," Brzezinska said of the spa, which opened in November. "But we don't offer acrylics, just natural spa nails."

The interior of 119 Smith Street achieves an airy quality with wicker accent pieces, blond wood floors and wood shelves. The three yellow and green treatment rooms have discreet curtains to separate them, handpainted murals of marsh reeds and candlelight. The only sounds were those of chirping birds and a quietly splashing miniature waterfall.

I elected to sample a balancing facial (\$80) that Tomczyk customized to my needs. This facial incorporates a lymphatic drainage massage to improve skin texture, elasticity and tone.

To begin, Tomczyk tucked me into the treatment bed with a cozy fleece blanket. She cleansed, exfoliated, steamed, performed extractions, zapped (with her high-frequency wand) that Tomczyk says "closes the door" of the pores after extractions), masked and moisturized me.

While I was being steamed, Tomczyk massaged and moisturized my arms and hands and left my hands in tissues. (While this is a nice bonus,



other hands up the ante by slipping client's hands into heated mitts.) After Tomczyk applied the mask, she put a warm compress on my forehead that felt as if it was melting my furrowed brow into a worry-free, smooth surface. She also applied a multivitamin cream on the sensitive skin around my eyes and mouth. While the mask was working, Tom-

czyk gave me a relaxing scalp massage.

During the treatment Tomczyk counseled me on how to combat dry skin from the inside out: drink more water and don't be afraid to use a heavy moisturizer to form a barrier against winter winds. Tomczyk also advised against using water with extreme temperatures (neither too hot



nor too cold) when cleansing my face in order to avoid broken capillaries.

Despite the serious business of caring for skin, the smiling Tomczyk clearly enjoys what she does and incorporates fun details where she can. She mixed chocolate raspberry oil into the massage lotion she applied to my face, but she can also apply essential oils like lavender or geranium if that's what the client needs. (Tomczyk noted that the spa doesn't skimp on the quality of its massage lotion in the face massages, as some spas do, but rather uses a cream that penetrates and benefits the skin.)

In her arsenal, Tomczyk says she has 15 different moisturizers and 10 different masks, so she can truly customize a facial to a client's needs. "Whatever we use, we want it to penetrate the skin," she explained. "We don't want to put product on the skin and just wipe it off."

"Whatever we use, I have to be positive it will work."

See Spa Directory on page 11 for more information about 119 Smith Street Spa.

"As always it depends on the person, but a pregnant woman may want to come every two weeks after she starts feeling really pregnant — about six weeks along," explained Stratton. "Sometimes, they'll give one of their massages to their husbands."

Stratton was born in New Orleans and grew up in Florida, but she's been a Park Slope since 1983. "Now of course, Brooklyn's the coolest place in the world," she said. And an informal survey of the neighborhood would seem to reveal that Park Slope is experiencing a baby boom — a perfect time to open Sage. But Stratton and Sage's other therapists offer massage to everyone, not just moms-to-be.

Sage is refreshingly down-to-earth, but the downside is that there isn't a receptionist to greet you at the door and when customers ring the buzzer to be let into the building, it can break the otherwise tranquil mood in the treatment room.

The upside is that Stratton eschews forms and questionnaires, instead asking her client, "How can I help you today?" She offers several massage oils to choose from, each with its own special blend of healing scents.

"They choose whatever suits their mood for that day," said Stratton, who took a yearlong course in aromatherapy at the Open Center in Manhattan.

"Smell doesn't go to the rational mind first, it goes to the unconscious," said Stratton, explaining that she can get clues about how a person is feeling

that day or what's ailing them depending on the scent they choose.

Occasionally, clients shy away from a scent — like eucalyptus — because of a deeply hidden memory.

"For some, that smell reminds them of medicine their mothers put on them when they were sick, so it reminds them of being sick — although they might not remember that right away."

While the treatment room I was in was a bit chilly, as soon as I mentioned it, Stratton immediately turned up the heat on the massage table. She set to work giving me a stress-relieving massage, paying particular attention to where I complained of an ache — my lower back (although I am not pregnant). Using gliding, pulling and kneading strokes and fingertip pressure she eased my aches and even released tension from areas where I didn't think I could have it, such as my face and fingertips.

While it seems impossible that the petite, smiling Stratton, with her sweet southern accent, could possibly give you a vigorous head to toe massage, you'll be pleasantly surprised. The former dancer and University of Florida cheerleader has enthusiasm and strength to spare.

"This is a beautiful and peaceful place with dedicated therapists and Stratton. We do what it takes to help people."

See Spa Directory on page 11 for more information about Sage Healing Arts.

# Pregnant pauses

Park Slope's new Sage Healing Arts relieves mom-to-be's anxiety, swelling, aches & pains

By Lisa J. Curtis  
GO Brooklyn Editor

After more than 15 years of working the aches, pains and stress in front of her clients as a freelance massage therapist, Susan Stratton finally opened the doors to Sage Healing Arts in June 2004.

Her new, spacious center on Fifth Avenue at Seventh Street has two treatment rooms for massage therapy and reflexology sessions as well as a large room for classes on everything from "bodywork for dogs" to "the art of baby massage" to reflexology classes for professionals.

The elegant classroom, which doubles as a waiting room, has pale-green walls, large molded cane chairs and blond wood floors. Stratton named her center for both meanings of the word "sage."

"It's a healing herb, sometimes used in massage oil, and it means a wise person," said Stratton.

And Stratton, 56, has the calming, reassuring demeanor of a guru, important for a woman who helps ease other women through pregnancy.

In addition to being a massage therapist trained in prenatal massage,



Healing hands: Sage Healing Arts owner Susan Stratton gives a massage to a pregnant client.

Stratton is a doula (who helps women through delivery and after birth); she estimates that about 30 to 40 percent of her business is from women looking for relief from pregnancy's aching lower back and swollen legs and ankles.

Because pregnancy is nine long months, Sage offers discounts for a series of five massages.

nancy's aching lower back and swollen legs and ankles.

Because pregnancy is nine long months, Sage offers discounts for a series of five massages.

# SPA Report

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# Where to GO

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal

## SAT, FEB 26

### OUTDOORS AND TOURS

**ICE SKATING:** The Wolman Rink is open. \$5 adults, \$3 children and seniors. Skate rental \$5. 10 am to 1 pm and 2 pm to 6 pm. Enter Prospect Park at Parkside and Ocean avenues. (718) 287-5252.

**WALKING TOUR:** Brooklyn Historical Society presents "Families of Brooklyn Heights." Learn about the Loves, the Whites, Pierponts, Beechers and others. \$15, \$5 children. 2 pm. 128 Pierrepont St. (718) 222-4111.

### PERFORMANCE

**STORYTELLING:** Green-Wood Historic Fund hosts a performance by Native American storytellers and dancers in traditional costume to raise money to restore a monument at the historic cemetery. \$10. 1 pm. Fifth Avenue and 25th Street. (212) 375-4545.

**INDIAN PRINCESS:** Green-Wood Historic Fund hosts a performance by Native American storytellers and dancers in traditional costume to raise funds to restore the grave stone of 18-year-old Indian Princess Du-Ham-Me. \$10. 1 pm. Fifth Avenue and 25th Street. (718) 763-7300.

**BARGEUSE:** Classic music program of works by Bachmann, Prokofiev and Shostakovich. \$35. 7:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-4061.

**GALLERY PLAYERS:** "The School for Scandal," a comedy of manners in the English language. \$15, \$12 children 12 and younger and seniors. 8 pm. 199 14th St. (718) 595-0547.

**CONCERT:** Brooklyn Conservatory of Music presents "Variations of Soul," a program of crosscultural soundscapes of African-American music. \$10, \$5 students. 8 pm. 58 Seventh Avenue. (718) 622-3300.

**BAM:** Brooklyn Academy of Music presents "The End of the Moon," a solo work by NUSA artist in residence Laurie Anderson. \$20 to \$50. 7:30 pm. BAM Harvey Theater. 651 Fulton St. (718) 636-4100.

**THEATER:** Brooklyn College Department of Theater presents Shakespeare's "As You Like It." \$12, \$10 seniors. \$5 students. 2 pm and 8 pm. George Gershwin Theater at Brooklyn College, one block from the intersection of Nostrand and Flatbush avenues. (718) 951-4500.

### CHILDREN

**FILM:** Brooklyn Public Library, Central branch, presents "Adventures of Milo and Otis" (1989). 11 am. Grand Army Plaza. (718) 239-2100. Free.

**BROOKLYN MUSEUM:** Arty Facts, a story and art hour for kids, presents "Where You Live." \$6, \$3 seniors and students, free for members and children younger than 12. 11 am and 2 pm. Also, "Stories and Art" presents "Tales of Beatrix." 4 pm. 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 638-5000.

**FAMILY THEATER:** Shadow Box Theater presents "African Drum," a multicultural sharing for African-American history Month through shadow puppetry and singers, dancers and musicians. \$10. 11 am. NYCAC, 30 Third Ave. (212) 724-0677.

**WICKOFF FARMHOUSE:** hosts a talk, "The Legacy of Brooklyn's African

Women, 1636-2005." 1 pm to 2 pm. Also, "African Lives on Brooklyn's Dutch Farms." Transportation at 11 am to Weeksville Heritage Center. 11 am to 4 pm. 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 735-4400.

**OTHER**

**BOOK FAIR:** Annual event at The Park South United Methodist Church. 9 am to 4 pm. South Avenue and Eighth Street. (718) 788-3306.

**DEFENSIVE DRIVING:** After completion, a certificate is given for discount on base insurance rates. \$25. 9 am to 4 pm. United Progressive Democratic Club, 29 Bay 25th St. (718) 236-1599.

**BROWNSTONE GARDEN DESIGN:** Brooklyn Botanic Garden three-week course on urban gardening. Learn to overcome poor soil, excessive shade and awkward spaces. \$109. 10:30 am to 1:30 pm. 1000 Washington Ave. (718) 623-7220.

**SUPPORT:** NYC Women with Uterine Fibroids meet. \$6. 11:30 am. First Union-University Church, 50 Monroe Place. (212) 263-3324.

**TRANSIT MUSEUM:** "Meet the Experts." Today's topic is "Transt Architecture Through Time." \$5, \$3 children 3 to 17. 1:30 pm. Boerum Place and Scherhorn Street. (718) 698-1600.

**BANCMATEK:** "Murder and Malice: Henri-Georges Clouzot." Today: "Diabolique" (1955). \$10. 2 pm, 4:30 pm, 6:50 pm and 9:15 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

**SQUARE DANCE:** Annual event at Plymouth Church. 6 pm to 9 pm. 75 Hicks St. Call: (718) 624-4743.

**RECEPTION:** Skylight Gallery presents "The Written Word," a retrospective on graffiti works of Kings County. 6 pm. 1368 Fulton St. (718) 320-0693. Free.

**CONCERT:** Brooklyn Botanic Garden hosts "Down Under" an Australian didgeridoo workshop, with Paul Taylor. 1 pm to 2:30 pm. Plant tour. 1 pm. Tour "Barker" Portlucage Art 18th Century Botanical Art Treasures Rediscovered." 1 pm. 55, 53 seniors and students. 1000 Washington Ave. (718) 623-7200.

**BCBC:** Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts presents "Porgy and Bess." \$40. 2 pm. Walt Whitman Hall, Brooklyn College, one block from the intersection of Flatbush and Nostrand avenues. (718) 951-4500.

**MUSIC OFF THE WALLS:** Brooklyn Philharmonic performs in a series inspired by the Brooklyn Museum's exhibit "14 Stations: Photographed by David LaChapelle." \$15. 3 pm. Also, Michael discusses his collaboration with the interfaith Assembly on Homelessness and Housing in creating photos in interfaith. 2 pm. 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 638-4100.

**WEEKSVILLE HOUSES:** Brooklyn Children's Museum offers a tour of the historic Weeksville houses. \$4. Shuttle leaves 12:30, 2 and 3:30 pm. 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 735-4400.

**BANCMATEK:** "Murder and Malice: Henri-Georges Clouzot" film series. Today: "Quai des Orfèvres" (1947). \$10. 2, 4:30, 6:50 and 9:15 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

**PRINCIPLES OF GARDENING:** Learn about basic garden maintenance techniques and design style. Two Sundays. \$65, \$59 members. 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm. (718) 623-7220.

**HEALTH TALK:** Maimonides Rehab Center offers a talk on the benefits of exercise. 10 am. 383 65th St. (800) 652-5558. Free.

**PARENT WORKSHOP:** Families First offers a workshop on sibling rivalry. \$15, \$10 members. 7 pm to 8:30 pm. 250 Bay 17th St. (718) 227-1862.

**LECTURE:** "Women and Heart Disease" and "Menopause Madness." 7 pm. Brooklyn Women's Service, 9201 Fourth Ave. (800) 652-5558. Free.

**BANCMATEK:** presents "Fright Night" film series. Today: Swedish silent film, "Haxan" (1922). \$10.

**CONCERT:** Cerdonian chamber ensemble, a group of six voices, performs. \$20, \$15 students and seniors. 4 pm. Plymouth Church, 75 Hicks St. (212) 569-5593.

**LIVE AT THE LUCERN:** The Brazilian group Orxos performs. Program features voice, drums, guitars, percussion, hand-dance instruments and more. \$12, \$8 students. 7 pm. 227 Fourth Ave. (718) 807-4016.

**THEATER:** "As You Like It." 2 pm. See Sat, Feb. 26.

**BAM:** "The End of the Moon." 3 pm. See Sat, Feb. 26.

**GALLERY PLAYERS:** "The School for Scandal." 3 pm. See Sat, Feb. 26.

**BARGEUSE:** Classic music. 4 pm. See Sat, Feb. 26.

**CHILDREN**

**NY AQUARIUM:** Learn about seahorses during this session for kids 5 to 8. \$26. 11 am to 12:30 pm. West Eighth Street and Surf Avenue. (718) 265-FISH.

**BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM:** presents stories and art-making in "Roots and Chinese New Year." Ages 8 and older. \$4. Free for members. 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm. 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 735-4400.

**CONCERT:** Kids are invited to a program of classics to Klezmer music. \$10. 3 pm. Kane Street Synagogue, 236 Kane St. (718) 875-1550.

**OTHER**

**BOOK SIGNING:** Doreen Community and Family Life Center presents author and speaker Dr. Jawana Kurjula. 11 am. 1635 Bergen St. Weeksville section. (718) 778-2038. Free.

**LECTURE:** Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture presents a platform, "National Health Insurance in the US." 11 am. 33 Prospect Park West. (718) 768-2712. Free.

**OPEN STUDIO:** "Art to Inspire the Soul" by Josie Ford. 11 am to 5 pm. 117 West 11th Ave. (718) 360-3400.

**FILM:** Brooklyn Public Library, Central branch, presents "The Untold Story of Emmett Louis Till." 2 pm. Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-2100. Free.

**BANCMATEK:** "Murder and Malice: Henri-Georges Clouzot" film series. Today: "Quai des Orfèvres" (1947). \$10. 2, 4:30, 6:50 and 9:15 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

**WRITING WORKSHOP:** Barnes and Noble fiction writing workshop. Author Jennie Fields leads. 7:30 pm. 267 Seventh Ave. (718) 632-7200. Free.

**POETRY:** Park Slope Poetry Project presents Hal Sirowitz and Bradford Gray. \$5. 7:30 pm to 10 pm. St. John St. Matthew Emanuel Lutheran Church, 283 Prospect Ave. (718) 788-2997.

**BAM:** Brooklyn Academy of Music presents "The End of the Moon," a solo work by NUSA artist in residence Laurie Anderson. \$20 to \$50. 7:30 pm. BAM Harvey Theater. 651 Fulton St. (718) 636-4100.

**POST-SHOW:** BAM Dialogue talk with Laurie Anderson. (718) 636-4100.

**ENTREPRENEUR CLASS:** Brooklyn Economic Development Corporation offers a 16-week course. Classes are scheduled every Tuesday from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm. 175 Kenmore St. (718) 522-4600. Free.

**WED, MARCH 2**

**DANCE:** Long Island University presents a screening of the film "Dune Dance." Noon. Spike Lee Screening Room. L.C. 122, Flatbush Avenue Extension and Dekalb Avenue. (718) 488-3355. Free.

**LUNCHTIME TOUR:** Brooklyn Historical



Reiki practitioners (including Linda Gnat-Mullin, right) give mini demonstrations of Japanese energy technique on March 5.

7:30 pm. Live piano accompaniment. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

**MEETING:** Fort Greene Association discusses Atlantic Yards. 7:30 pm. Lafayette Presbyterian Church, 85 South Oxford St. www.fortgreene.org. (718) 775-1855.

**TRAVELING CINEMA:** Barbes Bar presents the film "The Passaic Textile Strike" (1926). 7 pm. 376 Ninth St. (718) 965-9177. Free.

**TUES, MARCH 1**

**OPENING:** Brooklyn Industries opens and presents a selection of bags, limited-edition T-shirts and embroidered Brooklyn wear. 11 am to 9 pm. 100 Smith St. (718) 596-3986.

**BANCMATEK:** "Fright Night" film series. Today, cult classic, "The Car" (1977). \$10, \$6.50 pm and 9:15 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

**WRITING WORKSHOP:** Barnes and Noble fiction writing workshop. Author Jennie Fields leads. 7:30 pm. 267 Seventh Ave. (718) 632-7200. Free.

**POETRY:** Park Slope Poetry Project presents Hal Sirowitz and Bradford Gray. \$5. 7:30 pm to 10 pm. St. John St. Matthew Emanuel Lutheran Church, 283 Prospect Ave. (718) 788-2997.

**BAM:** Brooklyn Academy of Music presents "The End of the Moon," a solo work by NUSA artist in residence Laurie Anderson. \$20 to \$50. 7:30 pm. BAM Harvey Theater. 651 Fulton St. (718) 636-4100.

**POST-SHOW:** BAM Dialogue talk with Laurie Anderson. (718) 636-4100.

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**WED, MARCH 2**

**DANCE:** Long Island University presents a screening of the film "Dune Dance." Noon. Spike Lee Screening Room. L.C. 122, Flatbush Avenue Extension and Dekalb Avenue. (718) 488-3355. Free.

**LUNCHTIME TOUR:** Brooklyn Historical

Society hosts a tour "Women at Work." Learn about women's experiences in Brooklyn's industries and economy. \$6. \$4 seniors. 12:30 pm. 128 Pierrepont St. (718) 222-4111.

**CAREGIVING TALK:** Park Slope Geriatric Day Center offers a series of talks about caring for older persons. Today's topic: "Medicare and Long-term Insurance." 6 pm to 7 pm. 1 Prospect Park West. (718) 899-7701. Free.

**FUNDAMENTALS OF YOGA:** Noodle Yoga hosts a one-hour intro to yoga. 6:30 pm. 31 Washington St. No. 4. (718) 624-5525. Free.

**LECTURE:** Brother Thomas Barton speaks at Assumption Parish on mankind's relationship with creation. \$5. 7:30 pm. Cranberry Street, between Hicks and Henry streets. (718) 625-1161.

**ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE:** The Wooster Group's "House Lights," from Gertrude Stein's "Doctor Faustus Lights the Lights." \$37. 8 pm. 38 Water St. (718) 254-8777.

**BAM:** "The End of the Moon." 7:30 pm. See Sat, March 5.

**THURS, MARCH 3**

**RECEPTION:** "Arrangements: Painting of Brooklyn and Manhattan." 12 pm to 9 pm. 138 South Oxford St. (718) 595-3076. Free.

**READING SERIES:** Barnes hosts Jon Friedman, Blake Nelson and Richard Fulk in a poetry reading. 7 pm. 376 Ninth St. (718) 965-9177. Free.

**KABBALA:** Series on day-to-day applications of teachings of the Jewish Kabbala. Rabbi Dovber Pinson leads. 7 pm. Congregation B'nai Jacob, 401 Ninth St. (718) 965-9836. Free.

**BANCMATEK:** "Me, Vengeance: Park Chan-Wook" film series. "Oldboy" (2004). \$10, 7:30 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

**ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE:** "House Lights," from Gertrude Stein's "Doctor Faustus Lights the Lights." \$37. 8 pm. 38 Water St. (718) 254-8777.

**GALLERY PLAYERS:** "The School for Scandal," a comedy of manners in the English language. \$15, \$12 children 12 and younger and seniors. 8 pm. 199 14th St. (718) 595-0547.

**PLAY:** Our Lady of Guadalupe Youth Theater presents "My Favorite Year." \$11, \$9 seniors and children 10 and younger. 8 pm. 1518 73rd St. (718) 232-6920.

**FIRST WEEKEND:** Brooklyn Arts Exchange presents a dance performance piece Papapropo. \$15, \$10 members, \$8 low-income. 8 pm. 421 Fifth Ave. (718) 632-0018.

**BRICK THEATER:** "Big Top Machine," featuring singing, life-sized puppetry and acrobatics. \$10. 8 pm. 255 MacDougal Ave. (718) 907-3457.

**MUSIC:** The Omni Ensemble presents a program of works by Frank Zappa, Maria Piatnitsky, Ornella Coleman, John Lewis, David

6:30 pm. 31 Washington St. No. 4. (718) 624-5525. Free.

**RECEPTION:** Object Image Gallery presents a one-person show of collages by Brooklyn-based artist Erica Harris. 6 pm to 9 pm. 91 Fifth Ave. (718) 625-2434. Free.

**OPENING:** Exhibit of paintings by Brazilian jazz saxophonist/painter Ivo Pereira. 7 pm to 10 pm. Henry Gregg Gallery, 111 Front St. (718) 405-1090. Free.

**SAX:** The Brooklyn Sax Quartet performs at St. John's Lutheran Church. 8 pm. 155 Milton St. between Manhattan Avenue and Franklin Street. (718) 921-1330. Free.

**BAM:** "The End of the Moon." 7:30 pm. See Sat, March 5.

**ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE:** "House Lights," from Gertrude Stein's "Doctor Faustus Lights the Lights." \$37. 8 pm. See Sat, March 5.

**THEATER:** "As You Like It." 8 pm. See Sat, March 5.

**GALLERY PLAYERS:** "The School for Scandal." 8 pm. See Sat, March 5.

## SAT, MARCH 5

### OUTDOORS AND TOURS

**ICE SKATING:** The Wolman Rink is open. \$5 adults, \$3 children and seniors. Skate rental \$5. 10 am to 1 pm and 2 pm to 6 pm. Enter Prospect Park at Parkside and Ocean avenues. (718) 287-5252.

**CONFESSION:** Carine and their owners are invited to an early morning get-together. 7 am to 9 am. Long Meadow near Pine House in Prospect Park. (888) 604-3422. Free.

**URBAN WALK:** Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment takes a tour of Williamsburg. \$11. 9 members, \$8 seniors and students. Noon to 2 pm. Meet at street level of the Marcy Avenue station on Broadway. (718) 768-8500.

**BROOKLYN BRIDGE WALK:** Brook Onus takes a walk across the Brooklyn Bridge and through the city's first suburbs focusing on history, architecture and people of this area. \$12, \$10 students and seniors. 1 pm. Meet at southeast corner of Broadway and Chambers Street. (212) 439-1090.

**PERFORMANCE**

**CONCERT:** Kolot Chayeta hosts its annual celebration and dance party. Live music, a cocktail and dessert reception and a silent auction. 7 pm to 11 pm. Grand Prospect Hall, 263 Prospect Ave. Call for ticket info. (718) 390-7491.

**OPERA:** Regina Opera Company performs "Cavalletta Rusticana." \$15, \$10 seniors and \$5 teens. 7 pm. Regina Hall, corner of 65th Street and 12th Avenue. (718) 232-3555.

**BAM:** Brooklyn Academy of Music presents "The End of the Moon," a solo work by NUSA artist in residence Laurie Anderson. \$20 to \$50. 7:30 pm. BAM Harvey Theater. 651 Fulton St. (718) 636-4100.

**ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE:** "House Lights," from Gertrude Stein's "Doctor Faustus Lights the Lights." \$37. 8 pm. 38 Water St. (718) 254-8777.

**GALLERY PLAYERS:** "The School for Scandal," a comedy of manners in the English language. \$15, \$12 children 12 and younger and seniors. 8 pm. 199 14th St. (718) 595-0547.

**PLAY:** Our Lady of Guadalupe Youth Theater presents "My Favorite Year." \$11, \$9 seniors and children 10 and younger. 8 pm. 1518 73rd St. (718) 232-6920.

**FIRST WEEKEND:** Brooklyn Arts Exchange presents a dance performance piece Papapropo. \$15, \$10 members, \$8 low-income. 8 pm. 421 Fifth Ave. (718) 632-0018.

**BRICK THEATER:** "Big Top Machine," featuring singing, life-sized puppetry and acrobatics. \$10. 8 pm. 255 MacDougal Ave. (718) 907-3457.

**MUSIC:** The Omni Ensemble presents a program of works by Frank Zappa, Maria Piatnitsky, Ornella Coleman, John Lewis, David

6:30 pm. 31 Washington St. No. 4. (718) 624-5525. Free.

**RECEPTION:** Object Image Gallery presents a one-person show of collages by Brooklyn-based artist Erica Harris. 6 pm to 9 pm. 91 Fifth Ave. (718) 625-2434. Free.

**OPENING:** Exhibit of paintings by Brazilian jazz saxophonist/painter Ivo Pereira. 7 pm to 10 pm. Henry Gregg Gallery, 111 Front St. (718) 405-1090. Free.

**SAX:** The Brooklyn Sax Quartet performs at St. John's Lutheran Church. 8 pm. 155 Milton St. between Manhattan Avenue and Franklin Street. (718) 921-1330. Free.

**BAM:** "The End of the Moon." 7:30 pm. See Sat, March 5.

**ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE:** "House Lights," from Gertrude Stein's "Doctor Faustus Lights the Lights." \$37. 8 pm. See Sat, March 5.

**THEATER:** "As You Like It." 8 pm. See Sat, March 5.

**GALLERY PLAYERS:** "The School for Scandal." 8 pm. See Sat, March 5.

Wechsler and others. \$15, \$12 students and seniors. 8 pm. Brooklyn Conservatory of Music, 58 Seventh Avenue. (718) 659-8448.

**IMPACT SKATING:** Shakespeare's "Macbeth." \$15. 8 pm. 190 Underhill Ave. (718) 390-7163.

**THEATER:** The Brooklyn College Department of Theater presents Shakespeare's "As You Like It." \$12, \$10 seniors. \$5 students. 2 pm and 8 pm. George Gershwin Theater at Brooklyn College, one block from the intersection of Nostrand and Flatbush avenues. (718) 951-4500.

**CHILDREN**

**READING:** Freedom Books and Goods presents children's book author William Coats. She reads from her book "My Big Brother." 11 am. 123 Columbia St. (718) 643-8484. Free.

**BROOKLYN MUSEUM:** Arty Facts, a story and art hour for kids, presents "All About Animals." 11 am and 2 pm. Also, storyteller Heather Forest, gives a program of nature stories inspired by paintings of mountains and waterfalls. 4 pm. \$6, \$3 seniors and students, free for members and children under 12. 11 am and 2 pm. 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 638-5000.

**OPEN HOUSE:** Brooklyn Arts Exchange hosts an information open house about its summer programs. 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm. 421 Fifth Ave. (718) 632-0018. Free.

**OTHER**

**RELAX WITH REKI:** Seven reiki practitioners give mini demonstrations of Japanese energy technique. Pay what you like. Noon to 5 pm. 295 Fourteenth St. at South Avenue. (718) 699-4702.

**FIRST SATURDAY:** Brooklyn Museum hosts a monthly event featuring art and entertainment. Today, performance of "Beautiful Hills of Brooklyn," a one-act play about a woman growing old in 1970s Brooklyn. Also, short films by Brooklyn College students and "Weiner Cabaret," music performed by members of the Brooklyn Philharmonic. 6 pm and 7 pm. Dance party from 7 pm. 5 pm to 11 pm. 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 638-5000. Free.

**BIO DIVERSITY OPEN:** 120 exhibits and 80 lectures on health and the environment. \$10. 10 am to 8 pm. NY Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge, 333 Adams St. (718) 853-9244.

**YOGA:** Partner yoga class at Noodle Yoga. \$35 per couple. 5 pm to 7 pm. 31 Washington St. No. 4. (718) 624-5525.

**BANCMATEK:** "Me, Vengeance: Park Chan-Wook" film series. Today: "Sympathy for Mr. Vengeance" (2002). \$10, \$5 pm and 9 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

**OPENING:** Hogar Collection presents "Microcosmos," paintings, works on paper and sculpture. 6 pm to 9 pm. 111 Grand St. (718) 388-5007. Free.

**FIRST WEEKEND:** Brooklyn Arts Exchange presents a dance performance piece Papapropo. \$15, \$10 members, \$8 low-income. 8 pm. 421 Fifth Ave. (718) 632-0018.

**BRICK THEATER:** "Big Top Machine," featuring singing, life-sized puppetry and acrobatics. \$10. 8 pm. 255 MacDougal Ave. (718) 907-





# MORE HOUSING...

Continued from page 1

for something, you can't build it," he said, referring to housing being built along the highway.

"The value of development at Atlantic Avenue far outweighs any development on Furman Street," Montvel-Cohen said.

Indeed, based on figures provided to The Brooklyn Papers by the Empire State Development Corp., the park planners expect the 30-story and eight-story buildings at the uplands of Pier 6 to generate nearly 40 percent of the total revenue generated by the park's commercial entities.

Asked how much revenue row-houses on Furman Street could generate, a spokeswoman for the Empire State Development Corp., Deborah Wetzel, said it was too early to tell.

"None of this has been decided yet, even insofar as

whether it will happen or won't happen. To go any further than that would be misleading," she told The Papers.

But at Tuesday night's meeting, the tower was still a major concern for many of the community members in attendance, even though Urbanski opted to use more user-friendly terms like "strategy," "visual marker" and "sound buffer" to describe the two apartment buildings the planners have said are necessary if the park is to meet its projected \$15.4 million annual operating expense.

"What we're trying to do with Pier 6 is capture a piece of the site and protect it from the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway," explained Urbanski, which he gestured to on the model using a pointer. "People had a lot of things to say about that," he said after a long pause. "So we're thinking about that area right there."

"Can you elaborate on

that?" asked an audience member. To that Urbanski turned away and raised the microphone to Van Valkenburgh.

At a press briefing earlier in the day, he elaborated slightly, saying, "We thought it was a good idea to put a tall building here, to mark the entrance, adding that 'it helps with sound attenuation' at one of the loudest parts of the park."

But, Urbanski added, "the three-story buildings at Furman Street will be just as helpful for sound attenuation."

Urbanski, Leventer and Van Valkenburgh all shied away from getting into specifics about the highly debated proposals for the buildings planned near Atlantic Avenue, and glossed over renderings of a 16-story residential high-rise on the Con Edison lot at John and Pearl streets in DUMBO.

A misleading rendering of that building shown during a PowerPoint presentation at the

meeting gave the impression that it was several stories shorter than is proposed.

Without wasting any time, the DUMBO Neighborhood Association (DNA) sent a letter to Leventer, copying it to all the public officials involved in the plan, announcing their rejection of any plans for park housing in DUMBO without further disclosure of park finances, which have not yet been opened to public scrutiny.

"We object to the proposed 16-story residential tower at 1-11 John Street," wrote DNA President Nancy Webster. "In 1998, DNA worked tirelessly to prevent Con Edison from auctioning this site to developers interested in building luxury housing there."

"The current proposal allows the bulk of the site to be used for residential tower and leaves a mere 60-foot-wide parcel for the rest of the park — not wide enough for public

accessibility or significant use," she wrote.

While the eventual co-ops or condos on the Con Ed lot only account for \$3 million of the total anticipated park revenues of \$19.7 million based on Year 11 projections provided to The Brooklyn Papers by the Empire State Development Corp., the Pier 6 developments would account for \$7.3 million, or almost 40 percent, under that scenario.

Those projections are based on tax abatements to the homeowners that would decrease in percentage during the first 10 years, becoming completely exhausted in Year 11.

Nancy Bowe, president of the Brooklyn Heights Association, said she was still hopeful for a solution.

"If you heard at the meeting last night, changes are being made," she said. "I know there's a meeting this week to talk about expenses," she said, mentioning one scheduled for Wednesday afternoon hosted by the BRPD.

"We certainly hope we get some information in writing."

# White House blazer speaks at terror trial

By Mike Weissenstein  
Associated Press

Defense lawyers for a Yemeni sheik accused in Brooklyn federal court of funding terrorists took a gamble when they called an FBI informant with a troubled past as a hostile witness.

Mohamed Alanssi was one of some of the most serious allegations against Sheikh Mohammed Ali Hassan al-Moayad. He also is a convicted felon who set himself on fire outside the White House.

Alanssi's three days on the stand exposed jurors to questions about his credibility — but also introduced a string of potentially damaging allegations against al-Moayad and co-defendant Mohammed Mohsen Yahya Zayed.

The two are charged with using the Masjid al-Farooq mosque, on Atlantic Avenue between Third and Fourth avenues in Boerum Hill, to funnel millions of dollars to al-Qaeda and Hamas, and conducted illicit dealings at nearby businesses. Worshipers frequently gave money without knowing its destination, but the al-Farooq mosque has long been a suspected

hotbed of terrorist-related activity, law enforcement sources said.

Federal prosecutors used the informant's final day of testimony Wednesday to play jurors a video Alanssi shot of al-Moayad with a high-ranking Hamas official at a group wedding in Yemen where participants cheered a suicide bombing in Israel.

Alanssi was an organizer of the group wedding, at which he is seen with Mohammed Siyam, whom prosecutors call the second-in-command for the Palestinian militant group Hamas in Yemen.

Al-Moayad gives a religiously themed speech. Then guests and participants cheer Siyam's announcement of the suicide attack, which killed six people and injured more than 60.

Prosecutors say the announcement is evidence that the 2002 wedding and the bombing were timed to coincide, showing al-Moayad had ties to terrorism well before Alanssi had him into an FBI sting operation in January 2003.

"An organized operation," Siyam says on the tape played Wednesday. "It brought down many of the occupying invaders."

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In recent years, organizations such as the World Health Organization, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services have lined up in support of breastfeeding to stress its health benefits to both mothers and their newborn children.

To promote breastfeeding, New York Methodist Hospital recently hired a full-time lactation consultant to help educate and instruct new mothers. "Breast milk has been found to be more nutritious than formula," said Susan Storey, RN, certified lactation consultant. "Mothers need to know that from a health perspective, they and their children stand to gain many benefits from breastfeeding."

Storey had to meet stringent requirements and pass an examination given by the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners in order to be certified as a nurse possessing specialized skills and knowledge in lactation management. She is also qualified to provide skilled technical breastfeeding instruction to mothers and babies experiencing problems.

However, the decision to breastfeed is an individual one, and mothers who choose not to do so — for whatever reason — are supported by nurses and doctors who provide information on formula feeding. Some new mothers are unable to breastfeed because of health conditions. Others are physically incapable of feeding because of their breast structure. "Certain medications can also preclude a mother from breastfeeding," said Jacqueline Bush, MD, director of maternal-fetal medicine at New York Methodist. "For these women, using formula is not only viable, but the best option."

Because of protective substances in human milk, breastfed babies experience a number of benefits and are less likely to suffer from ear infections, allergies, vomiting, diarrhea, asthma, certain respiratory ailments

## Lutheran's new pastoral care center gets blessed

The Rev. Dr. Stephen P. Bouman, Bishop of the Metropolitan New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, officially opened the Lutheran Medical Center's new and expanded Pastoral Care Center last week.

The Pastoral Care Department is an integral part of the medical center's health care team, regularly ministering to the diverse spiritual needs of patients, visitors and staff. The new space offers a larger, brighter and more convenient location for the department and its cadre of community volunteers including ministers of all the major faith groups.

In keeping with its faith-based roots and reflecting the community it serves, Lutheran Medical Center's Pastoral Care Department provides opportunities for interfaith worship, meditation and prayer. The department's mission is to provide spiritual support as a significant component of holistic care and to encourage multi-faith-based collaborations in southwest Brooklyn.

"Lutheran Medical Center is a community of health, healing and faith," said Stiger, vice president for Mission and Community. "Affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we are committed to actively partnering with religious and community-based organizations to bring the highest quality of health care services to our neighbors and patients," he added.

Lutheran's Pastoral Care Department is ready to serve Brooklyn's faith needs 24 hours a day. Chaplains and clergy are always available for patients and families who want spiritual support during (or following) a medical crisis. The patient's own clergy are considered part of the health care team as well and are invited to offer guidance and support. Orthodox Jewish patients have complete access to a full-time Rabbi and a fully stocked Bikur Cholim room.

The medical center has room available for family members during shabbos, a Sabbath elevator and a special kosher menu that conforms to Jewish dietary laws. An interfaith chapel — that includes a tabernacle for Roman Catholics — and a mosque for Muslims are located in the main hospital building. A second interfaith chapel with seating for nearly 70 people is located at the Lutheran Augustana Center for Extended Care and Rehabilitation on the medical center campus.

Lutheran now offers interfaith prayer every Wednesday afternoon for patients, their families and staff. The new 15-minute prayer sessions are open to the public and persons requesting can be dropped off anytime in nearby boxes. To learn more about Lutheran's expanded Pastoral Care Department please call (718) 630-7505.

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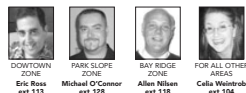
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# Missing tapes key to Hynes foe's case

By Jotham Sederstrom  
The Brooklyn Papers

More than a dozen taped-recorded conversations between Brooklyn district attorney candidate Sandra Roper and the woman accusing her of grand larceny may contain evidence exonerating Roper, but prosecutors cannot find them, her lawyer charged this week.

Roper defense attorney Raymond Baierlein said he will demand that the tapes be produced when Roper's retrial convenes on Feb. 28. The first larceny case against Roper, who in 2001 garnered nearly 40 percent of the vote in a primary race against District Attorney Charles Hynes — ended in a hung jury in November. Should the tapes not be found, Baierlein said he would file a motion of missing evidence, which, he said, would weigh heavily on the minds of jurors.

"I want to see them," Baierlein told The Brooklyn Papers this week. "These tapes existed at some point, and the evidence exonerating Roper, but prosecutors cannot find them, her lawyer charged this week."

In January, Roper, 48, announced that she would again challenge Hynes, in this year's primary. If convicted on charges of forgery, grand larceny and that she presented a forged instrument for filing, she faces two to seven years in prison. "Special prosecutor" Maranda Fritz knows that we're looking for them and she couldn't produce them," Baierlein said of the tapes. "I was told that she never had possession of them — according to her."

Fritz told The Brooklyn Papers this week. "They were never provided to me and I don't know where they are." The charges against Roper stemmed from complaints filed by Mary Lee Ward, 73, of Bedford-Stuyvesant, who went to Hynes charging that Roper doctor her retainer to elicit \$9,000 from her after agreeing to represent her free of charge in a dispute with a lending firm. Ward subsequently fired Roper and charged that she had stolen fees deposited into an escrow account.

Hynes referred the investigation to the state Office of Court Administration in December 2001, due, Hynes said, to his and Roper's political rivalry. Fritz, formerly a prosecutor in the federal bureau at the Manhattan DA's office and now a solo practitioner in Manhattan, was appointed as special prosecutor. Roper was indicted in 2003.



Sandra Roper arrives at state Supreme Court in 2003 to plead not guilty.

firmation.

If that doesn't happen, the case would proceed to trial. Additionally, Fritz said she will file a statement with the appellate division disciplinary committee, which could suspend Roper's license to practice law if it determines that the office gave false statements, both inside and outside of court.

Baierlein says that Ward tape-recorded a dozen telephone conversations she had with her then-attorney Roper in 1999. According to records obtained by The Brooklyn Papers, one of those recordings was transcribed from a cassette tape on Aug. 30, 2001. Two days earlier, the Appellate Division had placed Roper back on the primary ballot. On Aug. 29, the Court of Appeals had denied Hynes' application for an appeal.

Hynes referred the investigation to the state Office of Court Administration in December 2001, due, Hynes said, to his and Roper's political rivalry. Fritz, formerly a prosecutor in the federal bureau at the Manhattan DA's office and now a solo practitioner in Manhattan, was appointed as special prosecutor. Roper was indicted in 2003.

Hynes spokesman Jerry Schmetterer declined to comment on any aspect of Roper's case, including the missing tapes. Baierlein believes that several brief sections of dialogue in the transcript of an Oct. 4, 1999 conversation between Ward and Roper, which were labeled inaudible by transcriber Carlos Berrios, could hold the key to his client's acquittal.

That conversation eventually refers to a New York Times article that had been published weeks earlier in which Ward told of her ongoing legal problems with lenders. During the chat, conversation turns to a portion near the end of the article, in which the Times reporter, Jim Dwyer, cites Ward as saying that she handed over money to a lawyer, whose name was not published, but whom Baierlein believes is his client.

The dialogue is crucial, said Baierlein, because in Roper seems to take issue with Ward's contention in the article that the lawyer was working free of charge.

"I think it's pretty clear that my client was objecting to being referred to as pro bono and holding the money in es-

crow," said Baierlein. "And it's all right there."

Baierlein also contends that depending on what was said during two seconds-long patches of inaudible dialogue preceding that conversation, Roper could be proved innocent. In particular, when Ward begins to say what happened to money awarded to her from a fraudulent bank, Baierlein said that the inaudible tail-end of the conversation may reveal exactly what happened to the money.

"If she said 'for fees' there would be no trial," said Baierlein of the first inaudible section of the transcript. "If she said 'for escrow,' then yes."

Ward told The Brooklyn Papers this week that she had handed the tapes to a young paralegal with ambitions of continuing law school, though she refused to reveal her name or identify her employer. She also claimed to have turned the tapes over in 2003, two years after they had already been transcribed. When asked to clarify, Ward said that Fritz was privy to their location.

"If they let that lying woman go free then they should be in jail themselves," Ward said of Roper.

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# Atlantic Yards faces watch as eminent domain case reaches Supreme Court

By Jess Wloski  
The Brooklyn Papers

The U.S. Supreme Court struggled on Tuesday to balance the rights of property owners against the goals of town officials who want to sweep away old neighborhoods and turn the land over to private developers.

Riverfront residents who are suing the town of New London, Conn., say their working-class neighborhood is slated for destruction under the governmental authority of eminent domain, primarily to build an office complex that will benefit a pharmaceutical company that built its research and development headquarters nearby.

The outcome of the case could significantly affect Brooklyn homeowners who live in buildings within the footprint of developer Bruce Ratner's proposed arena to house his New Jersey Nets basketball team in Prospect Heights.

That plan, known as Atlantic Yards, also relies on the state's power of eminent domain, to condemn nearly 11 acres of private property for Ratner's six-square-block development, which also includes 17 commercial and residential high-rises on property emanating from the intersection of Atlantic and Flatbush avenues.

Several representatives from the Prospect Heights neigh-



New London, Conn., homeowner Susette Kelo talks to reporters outside the Supreme Court in Washington Tuesday, following arguments in her battle to stop the city of New London from seizing her and others' homes for an economic development project.

borhood traveled to Washington, D.C., Tuesday to hear the arguments in the New London case.

Sitting in the courtroom were Councilwoman Letitia James, who represents Prospect Heights, Fort Greene and Clinton Hill; civil rights law-

yer Norman Siegel, who has been retained to represent Prospect Heights residents in a potential lawsuit against the Ratner plan; and a legal un-

ter for the anti-arena group Develop — Don't Destroy Brooklyn, which maintains that the proposed 19,000-seat

arena, as well as the up to 5,800 units of housing planned by Ratner are a far cry from the legitimate public use for which eminent domain is typically called into play.

An attorney representing the City of New London, Wesley Horton, told the high court justices on Tuesday that the revitalization project will create new jobs and trigger much-needed economic growth. He argued that increased tax revenue is enough of a legal basis for the city to invoke eminent domain and compel the residents to sell their homes.

If a city wanted to seize property in order to turn a "Motel 6 into a Ritz-Carlton, that would be OK," asked Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

"Yes, your honor, it would be," Horton replied. James said she had high hopes for the outcome of the Connecticut case, based on the questions raised by the justices. "O'Connor really hit the nail right on the head, when she described how one revenue-generating entity can replace another," said the councilwoman. "It's a complete expansion of the public use clause laid out in our Constitution."

The justices expressed sympathy for the longtime residents of the Fort Trumbull section of New London. At the same time, they questioned whether the city had the authority to stop the town's plans.

The outcome could have significant implications nationwide.

In recent years, there have been more than 10,000 instances of private property being threatened with condemnation or actually condemned by government for private use, according to the Institute for Justice. The group represents the New London residents who filed the case.

Scott Bullock, representing the neighborhood residents, argued that government cannot take private property from one owner and provide it to another just because the new commercial project will boost the city's finances. The city plans to give the developers a 99-year lease for a dollar a year.

"More than tax revenue was at stake," Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg replied. "The town had gone down and down" economically.

O'Connor questioned whether the homeowners were "asking the court to 'second-guess' the governmental power of eminent domain."

The legal arguments concern the city's Amendment 1 prohibition against taking private property for public use without just compensation.

The City of New London says it is willing to pay a fair price.

"You are paying for it, but you are taking it from somebody who doesn't want to sell," Justice Antonin Scalia told Horton.

Several justices focused on the residents' argument that the court should impose standards for governments to meet when they want to sweep away neighborhoods for economic revitalization.

"A lot of times governments have no choice but they're going to do with the property," Dana Berliner, co-counsel for the residents, said after the court announced a decision.

New London, a town of less than 26,000, once was a center of the whaling industry and later became a manufacturing

hub. The revitalization project is a few miles downriver from the U.S. Navy's submarine base in Groton.

Likewise, Prospect Heights, with a population of roughly 29,000, at one time featured many factories on the site where the arena and housing complex is proposed.

With many of those same buildings now vacant or demolished, Forest City Ratner promises their new residential, office and retail complex to bring in 10,000 new jobs during the construction phases and activity to help stimulate what they have called a "brightened" area, a third of which is occupied by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority rail yards over which the developer would like to build.

The MTA would be paid a fee for use of the air rights over the yards.

The starting point for Tuesday's arguments was a Supreme Court ruling five decades ago that allowed governments to take private property for urban renewal.

The neighborhood's lawyer, Bullock, seized on that case, contending there is a difference between the urban blight of 1954 and the current circumstance of an economically depressed town.

Justice Anthony Kennedy

questioned Bullock's position, saying that economically depressed areas can quickly become brightened areas.

Ginsburg also wondered whether the urban renewal case offers much hope for the neighborhood. She pointed out that the issue in that case involved a department store that was not contributing at all to the blight in the area.

The court nonetheless cleared the way for local government to take the department store's property for the renewal project.

But Councilwoman James said she was most encouraged by the line of question coming from Justice Scalia.

"Justice [Antonin] Scalia really laid into them," she said, when questioning the respondent on public use.

Scalia asked Horton, "So if B pays more than A, that's acceptable?" in the case of giving one privately owned property to another private owner, to which Horton replied, "Yes."

"They fired tough questions both at the plaintiff as well as the respondent," said James. "Based on the questions asked, I was encouraged. The justices, as well as the respondents, are concerned about the status of eminent domain."

New London attorney

Daniel Krish said he was secure in the city's argument.

"It went very, very well," he said. "The court, as they always do, asked a lot of incisive questions but the court recognized — at least the questions suggested that they recognized — that they couldn't endorse the homeowners' position without overruling 100 years of their own precedent, and that's not something they're going to do."

But Bullock, the homeowners' lawyer, said, "Almost all of the justices seemed troubled by what was going on, and how cities seem to be pushing the envelope of eminent domain."

"That was one sentiment of the court that we found to be encouraging."

Chief Justice William Rehnquist, who is battling thyroid cancer, did not attend the arguments and will be absent for the next two weeks. He has not attended arguments since October. Justice John Paul Stevens was out of town and missed the day's arguments.

Daniel Goldstein, a spokesman for Develop-Don't Destroy Brooklyn and a home-owner living within the footprint of the Prospect Heights arena — by legal terms, the only "holdout" in

his Pacific Street condominium who has not sold or agreed to sell his apartment to Ratner — said it was hard to tell which way the court would go.

"They're even more difficult to read at both sides because two of the justices weren't there," Goldstein said, "but it seems like they're going to look at the issue of economic development very closely."

"They may not see economic development is not a public use, but they will see a decision that will put more of an onus on cities and developers to prove that their proposed development is economic development."

"We're excited to hear what they'll say come June," he said.

Siegel, the former head of the New York City Liberties Union, said that whatever happens, he's sure clearer the language of the constitutional clause demanding "public use" for eminent domain will be written.

Siegel, "I'm cautiously optimistic that the property owners in the New London case will prevail, and if they prevail the property owners in Prospect Heights potentially can prevail."

— with Associated Press reports

## Boommie: Nets arena is real rival to MSG

By Timothy Williams  
Associated Press

Mayor Michael Bloomberg said Friday that the biggest threat to Madison Square Garden is not a proposed West Side stadium, which the owners of the Garden strongly oppose, but a planned basketball arena for the Nets in Brooklyn.

The mayor is seeking approval for a stadium that will cost at least \$1.4 billion to serve as the new home of the New York Jets football team and as the centerpiece of the city's 2012 Olympic bid.

But earlier this month, Cablevision Systems Corp., the owner of Madison Square Garden, tried to derail those plans by offering \$600 million to develop the

land, which is owned by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. The Jets had offered \$100 million to pay for the development rights.

Cablevision opposes the stadium because it fears the facility would draw away lucrative concerts and other events that would otherwise use Madison Square Garden. The Garden is located a few blocks from the proposed stadium site.

The mayor, however, has repeatedly denounced Cablevision's bid to develop the property. On Friday, Bloomberg suggested that Cablevision construct a new facility two blocks to the west in order to better compete with the Nets' new arena in Brooklyn, scheduled to open in 2007.

"The best thing would be for Cablevision to build a new Madison Square Garden on the west side of the old Farley Post Office," said Bloomberg. "That will give them a great venue, especially with the Nets project in Brooklyn, because that is their real competition — the stadium is not, they just couldn't be more wrong about that. The number of events that will go from Madison Square Garden to the stadium is negligible."

He added: "The real issue they have is that events will go over to Brooklyn, where you have as good mass transit, and you are going to have a brand new Frank Gehry designed stadium."

A Cablevision spokesman, however, quickly dismissed Bloomberg's suggestion.

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